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Field reduced to 3

BY GRAHAM COOKE

AUSTRALIA is among the front runners in the race to stage the 1991 Youth World Cup.

The fact has emerged from the visit to the country of the vice-president of FIFA, Harry Cavan, and FIFA executive member Peter Velappan, who is also general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation.

While Cavan would say nothing other than that he was "impressed" by what he had seen on visits to Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane, indications are that Australia has two major rivals out of the contenders for the prestigious competition.

They are Portugal, the strongest by far of the European contenders, and South American nation Ecuador.

Ecuador is a tiny, mountaneous country with its capital, Quito, a massive 2700m above sea level — an altitude factor which could count against it.

Speaking in Canberra, Cavan said the FIFA party had been looking at such things as the quality of stadia, safety and facilities for the media.

"In spite of the fact we know the facilities here are good from the time when the tournament was held here in 1981, FIFA needs to ensure that all the latest and best safety precautions are incorporated, especially bearing in mind the events of Hillsborough.

"We've now been round all the stadia listed by the Australian Soccer Federation, and I cannot say anything more other than that I am impressed.

"I cannot make promises. The decision will be made by the FIFA executive in July after I have submitted my report."

Australia was one of the few countries he had visited where soccer was not considered the number one national sport, "but this is an advantage."

"The policy of FIFA in regard to these tournaments is to give opportunities to Third World countries — and I mean Third World in relation to soccer — to get organisational experience and for young players to improve their skills."

The fact that Australia had held the tournament before was another plus. "We are aware of the organisation they can bring to bear and we were well satisfied with the way that tournament was run."

ASF secretary Alan Vessey said he did not believe there was anything more the Federation could do to ensure Australia's bid was successful.

"Everyone now knows what we have to offer and we are now in the hands of FIFA," he said.

SBS-TV's "Mr Soccer", Les Murray, heads the World Cup team exclusively on SBS. The network will telecast — live — all 52 matches from Italy in 1990.

Brusasco defends decisions

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation, Ian Brusasco, rose quickly to the defence of soccer at a top-level meeting

He and around 100 other delegates in the audience at a conference organised by the Confederation of Australian Sport, were listening to an address from the then Federal opposition spokesman on sport, John Sharpe, when he touched on the issue of safety at football grounds.

Referring on the Hillsborough disaster, Sharp said that because nothing of a similar nature had happened in Australia to date did not mean it could not happen in the future.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

PAOK v Victoria in match date switch

THE opening tour match of visiting Greek club PAOK, scheduled for Melbourne last Thursday night, was postponed after the PAOK touring party was unable to leave Athens on time.

PAOK should have flown into Melbourne last Wednesday morning but didn't arrive until Saturday following a problem with visas in Athens.

The opening tour match against Victoria will still go ahead but it has been rescheduled to Wednesday 7 June.

PAOK's other games on tour following the Adelaide encounter last Sunday will go ahead as originally planned with matches as follows:

⋆ Wednesday May 31 v Sydney Olympic in Sydney; ⋆ Friday June 2 v Greek XI in Melbourne; ⋆ Wednesday June 7 v Victoria in Melbourne.

— GREG BLAKE

"Ouch says a keen Angie Goutzioulos of Heidelberg as Paul Fernandes of South Melbourne comes yapping at his heels earlier this season.

The big question now is whether the Bergers have purchased enough new players to escape relegation from the National League.

Improved recent performances seem to suggest Miron Bleiberg's men-may yet do a "Houdini".

For starters, they have vacated last place — to Melbourne JUST — for the first time this season.

Heidelberg travel to Sydney this weekend to meet the resurgent Croatia.

A win or a draw against one of the league's better credentialled sides would give the Bergers a further boost and could be the turning point for them.

A defeat, while not fatal yet, would almost surely mean a nail-biting finale to the season for their fans, who have stuck with the club through thick and thin this year.

Sydney wash-outs continue

SYDNEY's torrential rain has been the worst for over a century, and it has certainly played havoc with all football in the city.

The National League has been particularly hard hit.

Only Marconi Stadium and the Croatian Sports Centre have given service regularly.

When the Marconi pitch was laid it was placed above a bed of gravel and ash, and the surface graded to assist run off.

The Gabbie Stadium management received a demonstration in what is required in the laying of a new pitch.

Blacktown owns their property lock, stock and barrel, and have plans approved ready for a relocated playing pitch and grandstand.

The 1,000-seat stand and other improvements will cost $750,000. Would the club fork out that much money if they did not manage to dodge the drop back to State League?

Last Wednesday's Apia-Olympic NSL Cup semi-final was postponed early on the Tuesday.

Originally, it was thought that the St George Stadium field was well drained when it was laid.

Indications are, however, that the subsurface pipes are virtually no longer operative.

Lambert Park is, of course, bumpy, and the grass is particularly long as the ground has been too wet for mowing.

The tight little ground gains from its natural slope to the railway end. Even so, drainage at the lower end wouldn't take the water some weeks ago, and it was declared closed by the Council when Apia was due to play Sydney Olympic.

Brandon Park was a magnificent gain for Wollongong City, but again drainage for the field is not satisfactory.

On top of that are the problems experienced by NSW State League clubs, which in the main use council-controlled arenas.

And school and junior matches have had to be cancelled en masse.

Harking back to 1983, English reporters in Sydney for the England-Australia game dug up a good story to wire back home.

That year there was a complete and utter drought in Western NSW, and they discovered that in some regions the entire season had been cancelled due to the dust and dirt, and lack of grass cover on the parks.

Some experts believe that NSW coastal rain will revert to normal in mid-June.

Hopefully, they will be right.

Meanwhile, ground conditions indicate the downright certainty of still more postponements right across the board.

NSL season won't be extended

SUGGESTIONS to extend the current soccer season, because of the big backlog of postponed games, have been rejected by the National Soccer League.

The NSL cancelled the National Cup semi-final set down for last Wednesday night at St George Stadium between Sydney Olympic and Apia because the ground was still waterlogged.

League officials now have to find dates to play the semi-final, and eight league matches, which have been called off by the continuous wet weather in Sydney.

"At this stage, it is not necessary to extend the season," said NSL general manager Peter Russell.

"If there are any further postponements, we will follow the overseas system, and tell the clubs they have to play the games within the scheduled period.

"But we don't intend to arrange any more matches for the next couple of weeks to give the grounds breathing space and time to dry out."

The NSL faces a problem, because of the shortage of night grounds that can be used midweek without involving high expense and inconvenience to clubs.

A further proposal to stage double-headers was also rejected by Russell, because of ground conditions, and problems in determining revenue returns for the clubs.

"If the clubs came to us, and said they wanted to play double-headers, we'd look at it," he said.

"But we can't generally expect clubs to play home games at away grounds. They're losing revenue already by playing midweek, and facing additional cost for lights."

Russell has listed catch-up games to be played on Wednesday nights for the next five weeks in Sydney.

— TED SIMMONS, AAP

Frank Farina scores another crucial goal

FRANK FARINA was one of the stars of the last round of the Belgian championship.

He scored the vital goal which enabled his club, FC Brugge, to qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

Going into the game, Farina's club was in fifth place and had to finish fourth, ahead of Royal Antwerpse, to secure a place in Europe in 1989/89.

Brugge's opponents, RWM Molenbeek, had to win to avoid relagation, so the stage was set for a thriller — and so it was.

Club Brugge won 4-3, after trailing 3-2 for 81 minutes before Farina equalised with a fierce first-time volley off a cross from Belgian international Marc Degryse.

The goal galvanised Bruges, who went on to score the winner five minutes later, sending Molenbeek crashing into Division II with RC Genk, and in the process saving their crosstown rivals, Cercle Bruges, Eddie Krncevic's first Belgian club, who missed the big drop by a single point.

Farina is expected back in Australia next week.

He will definitely not be making any guest appearances for his former club, Marconi, or anyone else as he wants to enjoy a well-deserved six-week break after playing almost non-stop for two years.

FRANK FARINA: back home for a break from the tough grind of Belgian football.

Rudi Gutendorf revisited

BY GEORGE VAN ZANDEN
ASW WRITER IN HOLLAND

WHILST at the Holland — West Germany World Cup qualifier in Rotterdam I interviewed former Socceroo coach Rudi Gutendorf.

So here are a few of his viewpoints.

Q: Are you still coaching?

A: Yes, I am coaching in Zambia in Africa.

Q: Would you like to go back to Australia?

A: I would like to go back, but it is not possible.

Q: Have you followed the Australian national team?

A: Yes, I have several video tapes of both the clubs and the Socceroos.

Q: What do you think of the Australians now they have been eliminated from the World Cup?

A: Australia should have beaten New Zealand; they should have killed them. This New Zealand team is not as strong as the one we faced years ago.

They should have won by three or four goals but could I ask you a question?

What is going to happen now they have been beaten so badly? Will Les Scheinflug take over from Frank Arok?

Q: Arok will stay in charge at least until June 1990. If Australia had qualified, would they have coped with the likes of Germany and Holland?

RUDI GUTENDORF

A: They would not have scored against the Germans, and would have lost by at least three goals.

Q: Who will win the World Cup next year?

A: West Germany, the Soviet Union and Italy are my favourites. Spain and Holland also could take it.

PAOK's record

PAOK of Salonika, which opened its Australian tour on Sunday in Adelaide, has the biggest following of any club in Northern Greece.

It plays in Sydney tonight (Wednesday) before completing its tour with two games in Melbourne.

Over past years PAOK has had a splendid record.

As an indication of its consistency, taking into account the seasons from 1974/75 to 1984/85, it won the Greek National League twice and did not ever finish below fifth.

PAOK was founded back in 1926, entering the National Football League at its inception in 1959 and never having been demoted.

It has often competed in Europe, with a record over the three Cups of 14 wins, eight draws and 10 losses.

The club's home ground holds 50,000 spectators and is the biggest privately owned stadium in Greece.

Current PAOK players in the Greek national squad are Nikos Alavantas, George Skartados and Apostolos Papaioannou.

Six club players are in the country's youth team.

— KEITH GILMOUR

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AC Milan	Real Barcelona	Brasil	Sydney Oly
Napoli	PAOK	Argentina	Marconi
Inter	Olymp	Italy	
Juventus	A.E.K.	Greece	
Man United	Panath	Spain	
Arsenal	Udinese	England	
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NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

Presents

TONIGHT AT 8.15PM
(Wednesday May 31)

Sydney Olympic vs PAOK (Greece)

EARLY MATCH — KICK OFF 6.30PM

Apia-Leichhardt

versus

South Melbourne Hellas

TICKETS ADULTS $15 — AGED PENSIONERS & CHILDREN $10

AT THE SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM

Croatia's fortune

By PETER DESIRA

SYDNEY Croatia rediscovered its scoring touch to send Melbourne City JUST into deeper relegation bother at Schintler Reserve on Saturday.

The Sydney side has been the lowest NSL scorers (netting less than lowly Heidelberg) and went into the match with a negative goal difference.

They changed all that with a 3-1 victory — and regained a top five spot into the bargain.

Croatia was the better side in the opening exchanges, forcing Zoran Nikitovic into good saves from a shot by Robbie Slater after four minutes and a header by debutant David Seal a minute later.

Nikitovic was lucky in the 14th minute when a long range shot by Graham Arnold spun off his hands but landed on the wrong side of the crossbar.

Melbourne City first threatened in the 27th minute. Ken Murphy provided the cross from the left. Ernie Tapai's shot was blocked and Joe Palatsides smashed a volley on the rebound which appeared to come off Alan Hunter's hands. But referee Don Campbell waved play on in spite of protests for a penalty.

Tapai cut inside from the right to hit a shot on the turn which forced John Krajnovic into a good save in the 34th minute.

But the midfielder hurt his right knee in a tussle soon after and was off the ground receiving treatment when Sydney Croatia took the lead in the 43rd minute.

Slater provided the cross from the right and Graham Arnold outjumped Gary Van Egmond to head into the back of the net for his fourth goal of the season.

Both sides made a halftime substitution but the match died out in goalmouth action until JUST got back on level terms in the 61st minute.

Mehmet Durakovic chipped a free kick from the edge of the area. Joe Palatsides headed the ball on and Gary Van Egmond slid in from the left to slam the ball home for his first ever NSL goal.

The goals perked up the home side and Krajnovic made a good save off debutant Sasha Becvinovski in the 68th minute, while Palatsides got on the end of a Vasco Mitrovski cross only to hit his volley over the bar.

Sydney Croatia brought the revival to an abrupt halt by scoring its second goal in the 79th minute.

Slater again provided the cross, Arnold headed it back across goal and David Seal, playing his first NSL game, slammed the ball into the back of the net.

Croatia put the result beyond doubt two minutes later with a goal by substitute Manis Lamond.

Nikitovic stopped the initial shot from the striker but Lamond swooped to slam in the rebound.

The defeat signalled more trouble for Melbourne City JUST. The club, struggling to make ends meet off the park, is now in grave relegation danger.

MELBOURNE CITY JUST: Nikitovic, Deankovic, Lazopoulos, Karic, Van Egmond, Durakovic, Tapai (Mitrovski 46), Retre, Palatsides, Becvinovski, Murphy.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Krajnovic, Savor, Rezo (Lamond 46), Hunter, Rumora, Clinch (Milicevic 87), Slater, Jones, Arnold, Petkovic, Seal.

Referee: Don Campbell.

The Alex Bundalo style — Apia's midfielder strikes as Melbourne Croatia's evergreen George Hannah tries to block while Alan Davidson looks on. — CARMELO BAZZANO photo.

Dour 1-1 draw at Leichhardt

BY LOU GAUTIER

APIA Leichhardt's Top Five prospects were dimmed after they had to concede a 1-1 draw to valiant Blacktown City at Lambert Park last Sunday.

Both sides were forced to take the field with vastly depleted teams as the result of a string of injuries and suspensions to key players and that was reflected in the standard of play, which never reached a respectable level.

Most of the action took place in the first half.

The second period, to put it bluntly, was boring.

Apia had to play catch-up early as they had a goal scored against them in only the fifth minute.

Defender Bobby Naumov, one of the better players on display, sliced through the Apia defence to lay on a perfect pass for young John Gibson, who coolly steadied himself before slotting the ball past Tony Pezzano.

Coach Les Scheinflug's gamble of pairing Gibson with his former under 20 national team-mate Zlatko Arambasic paid off handsomely as they were the two most dangerous City forwards.

Less successful was his decision to field English import Patrick McGeeney, who only lasted 3O minutes and was repleced by Paul Welch, yet another Young Socceroo, who in turn was susbtituted eight minutes from full-time by Stephane Jee, also a member of Scheinflug's national youth team this year.

Blacktown missed a great opportunity to race to a two-goal lead in the 22nd minute when Arambasic hit the upright, but 45 seconds later Apia were back on level terms.

Rod Brown was on the spot to poke a John Kosmina shot which goalie Steve Watson could only partially block through a maze of legs in a goalmouth scramble.

It was not a 'pretty' goal but it swung the tide Apia's way and they were unlucky three minutes later when Milan Blagojevic, yes you guessed it, another youth international, saw his fierce long-range drive glance off the City crossbar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

West End Beer at its best.

National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	19	13	3	3	46	18	29
Melbourne Croatia	19	10	4	5	34	22	24
Preston	18	8	5	5	22	17	21
Sydney Olympic	18	7	6	5	23	17	20
Adelaide City	19	7	6	5	20	17	20
Sydney Croatia	18	7	6	5	15	14	20
St George	16	7	5	4	16	13	19
Apia Leichhardt	17	6	6	5	21	22	18
South Melbourne	18	7	3	8	31	26	17
Wollongong City	18	5	3	10	16	25	13
Sunshine GC	19	5	3	11	16	26	13
Blacktown City	15	4	5	6	18	31	13
Heidelberg	18	5	2	11	15	34	12
Melbourne JUST	18	4	3	11	18	29	11

Results

SYDNEY CROATIA 3 (R. Slater, D. Seal, M. Lamond) MELBOURNE JUST 1 (G. van Egmond)at Schintler Reserve. Crowd: 1200.
MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (I. Kelic) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 at Somers Street. Crowd: 6607.
HEIDELBERG 1 (K. Kouis) ST GEORGE 0 at Olympic Village. Crowd: 4000.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (A. Saad 2) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 2120.
SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 4 (A. Postecoglou 2, P. Trimboli, S. Tasios) WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (P. Brodnik) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 1205.
ADELAIDE CITY 4 (A. Vidmar 2, S. Melta 2) MARCONI 1 (Z. Nastevski) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2958.
APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (R. Brown) BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (J. Gibson) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1009.

Top Scorers

ZLATKO NASTEVSKI	Marconi	15
ZELJKO ADZIC	Melbourne Croatia	9
FRED DE JONG	Marconi	9
IVAN KELIC	Melbourne Croatia	9
PAUL TRIMBOLI	South Melbourne	9
IAN GRAY	Marconi	7
SCOTT OLLERENSHAW	St George	7
ROD BROWN	Apia Leichhardt	7

Crowds

ROUND 19: 18,101
AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,586

TOTAL ATTENDANCE (19 ROUNDS): 406,254*

*** St George v Blacktown (Round 9); Blacktown v Sydney Croatia, Apia v South Melbourne, St George v Preston, (Round 12); Blacktown v Wollongong, Apia v Sydney Olympic (Round 14); St George v Melbourne JUST, Blacktown v Heidelberg (Round 18) still to be played.**
— The average attendance per NSL round will be published after all deferred games have been completed.

NSL ACTION EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

The Big Match

SATURDAY
SUNSHINE v MELB CROATIA
BLACKTOWN v MARCONI
SUNDAY
ADELAIDE C v WOLLONGONG
ST GEORGE v APIA
STH MELB v SYD OLYMPIC

ABC-TV

CHECK LOCAL PAPERS FOR SCREENING TIMES

PRESENTED BY JOHN BELL

Souths turn corner

BY PHIL MURPHY

SOUTH Melbourne coach Brian Garvey is adamant his team has turned the corner after outclassing Wollongong City 4-1 at Brandon Park on Sunday

"That is the tonic we need to become a real play-off threat," said Garvey.

"It is also sweet revenge for us because Wollongong beat us 4-0 here last season."

Wollongong also downed Garvey's team 2-0 at Middle Park earlier in the season, but looked only a shadow of that side on Sunday.

The two players who laid the foundation for South Melbourne's win were Socceroo team-mates Paul Trimboli and Mike Petersen.

They combined when the game was just three minutes old, Petersen releasing a fine 30-metre pass for Trimboli with the Wolves' defence caught far too square.

Goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos was left badly exposed and Trimboli angled the ball home.

For the home team, the real turning point came just before half-time when Mike Hollifield and Danny Crainie combined to create a good opening for Pat Brodnik.

With the goal at his mercy, Brodnik lost his footing in the mud and almost immediately South Melbourne secured their second goal.

Makeshift centre-half Randell Easthorpe handled the ball, trying to stop a Danny Wright shot and Angie Postecoglou scored from the penalty spot.

Although Wollongong created several chances, it wasn't until the 58th minute that Brodnik reduced the arrears.

Then David Skeen went around four defenders only to have goalkeeper Bruce MacLaren push his 18-metre drive over the top.

South Melbourne always posed problems for Wollongong on the break and it was from one of these moves that Steve Tasios scored number three.

Then Postecoglou sealed the points with his second penalty.

Bouhoutsos made good saves from Tasios and replacement Damian Mori near the end while Skeen and Hollifield also performed well for the Wolves.

South Melbourne were always more composed with Wright and Petersen their best performers.

Wollongong's latest Argentine import, Hernan Fernandez, started off brightly but the pace of the game took its toll and he was eventually replaced by countryman Walter Calbanese.

Wolves coach John Fleming was abused by spectators for not having sent Calbanese on earlier.

They were even more upset when they realised Fernandez was the man to come off.

A faction of Wollongong supporters have been upset with Fleming recently for what they claim have been negative comments attributed to him in the Wollongong press.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Bouhoutsos, Kotamanides (Higgs 32), Hollifield, Vlietstra, Easthorpe, Giraldi, Stefanovski, Fernandez (Calbanese 79), Crainie, Brodnik, Skeen.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren, Healy, Postecoglou, Fernandes, Blair, Petersen, Talliadoros (Mori 65), Tasios, Trimboli (Foster 88), Wright, Tsolakis.

Referee: D Willcocks. Crowd: 1205.

NSL Deferred Games

WEDNESDAY MAY 31	
Apia L'hardt v South Melbourne	Sydney Football Stadium 6.30pm
WEDNESDAY JUNE 7	
St George v Blacktown City	St George Stadium 7.30pm
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14	
St George v Preston	St George Stadium 7.30pm
Blacktown City v W'gong City	Croatian Sports C 7.30pm
WEDNESDAY JUNE 21	
Apia L'hardt v Sydney Olympic	St George Stadium 7.30pm

Saad gets two for Olympic

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC striker Abbas Saad scored a brace of goals in the second half to sink the visiting Sunshine George Cross 2-0 at the St George Stadium last Sunday.

Both sides struggled on a heavy, muddy surface and credit is due to all the players for the manner in which they always attempted to play open Soccer in the atrocious conditions.

Commenting on Saad's two goals after the match, coach Eddie Thomson ironically remarked:

"It just goes to show how lucky you can be as I was seriously thinking of replacing him in the second half after not being happy the way he was playing."

Sunshine fought valiantly in the first half, especially the back four of Andrew Marth, Shaun Parton, George Alevisos and Chris Ketsakidis, to stem the Olympic tide.

But in the second half, Sunshine eventually lost control to allow Olympic's midfield quartet of Grant Lee, Robbie Ironside, Gary Phillips and Jason Polak to get well and truly over the top of them.

Olympic centre-back George Haniotis, together with his twin-central partner Robbie Hooker, won everything in the air.

Olympic finally broke the scoreless deadlock in the 64th minute when powerful right-back Davie Barrett crossed from the right to Saad.

Saad from the edge of the six-yard box volleyed his drive under the outstretched body of goalkeeper Sean Keogh to score.

Five minutes later, Saad nailed the traget for the second time from the right following excellent visionary work by tough midfielder Robbie Ironside.

The New Zealander in the 74th minute again laid on a perfect goal chance, this time to Polak, but the latter's final angled short drive from the left was well blocked for a corner by Keogh.

Ironside, with his powerful running and robust tackling, relished the sluggish conditions of the pitch as Sunshine slowly buckled under the pressure.

Sunshine coach John Gardiner lamented later: "We did well in the first half but in the second we were very ordinary. We lost a couple of chances but Olympic handled the bad conditions much better than us in the second half."

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Barrett (Koch 84), Haniotis, Hooker, Georgakis, Lee, Ironside, Phillips, Polak, Saad, Edwards (McGarry 84).

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh, Marth, Parton, Alevisos, Ketsakidis, Faulkner, Waddell, Hasler (McLaren 76), Lennon (Taylor 76), Lewis, Latif.

Referee: A. Owens. Crowd: 2120.

Olympic's two-goal hero Abbas Saad — scored in the nick of time.

Fernandez joins Wollongong City

BY MARIO ETCHART

HERNAN Fernandez, a 22-year-old midfielder from Argentine National League club River Plate, arrived in Australia from Buenos Aires last Friday.

Fernandez signed with Wollongong City for the rest of the season.

The youngster started his career at the age of nine in the lower ranks of River Plate.

After seven years in the youth teams, where he played alongside Argentine national team striker Claudio Caniggia, now with Verona in Italy, Fernandez was transferred to Deportivo Espanol, another successful leading Argentine club.

Two later later, he went back to River Plate, where he played 14 times in the first team.

His ambition now is to succeed with the Wolves, show his talent and help the club escape relegation.

FOOTNOTE — In a related developmment, Wollongong City coach John Fleming handed in his resignation on Monday. It is believed he did so because he feels the management no longer has confidence in him. Queens Park Rangers stars Mark Falco and Peter Reid have now officially agreed to play two games with the club this month.

Hernan Fernadez

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MARCONI COPS FLOGGING

By RAY GATT

MARCONI coach Berti Mariani was straight to the point when he described his team's 4-1 loss to Adelaide City at Marconi Stadium on Sunday as "more of a flogging than a slip-up".

Like his players and the Marconi supporters, Mariani was somewhat shellshocked by the shallacking the classy Adcity handed the runaway competition leader.

"When you allow a team like Adelaide City to play their normal game then you get what you deserve," he said. "We have no excuses. We cannot blame the referee and we cannot blame the ground. We were beaten by a better team."

Certainly, few would argue with the assessment that Sunday's effort was Adcity's best this season.

City was not fazed by the absence of its classy centre-back Milan Ivanovich and took the game to a Marconi team which has threatened to turn the NSL championship into a one-horse race.

Adcity coach Zoran Matic was a happy man after the match but he warned his team still has a long way to go.

"We have to get a minimum eight points from our remaining matches to get into the top five," he said. "There is still a lot of hard work ahead."

City's star performer was converted midfielder Aurelio Vidmar, who appears to have relished his new role as a striker. Vidmar was simply devastating, scoring twice and often taunting the Marconi defence.

Matic would not take the credit for switching Vidmar up front some four weeks ago.

"He was not playing well in the midfield and we were having problems up front," Matic said. "When you are drowning you will grab at any branch that comes along."

Vidmar opened the scoring as early as the second minute when some slack Marconi defence allowed him to sneak in and head home from a corner.

Marconi's reply was swift. Four minutes later David Lowe was brought down in the box and Zlatko Nastevski had no problems notching his 15th goal of the season.

Sergio Melta put City ahead from the penalty spot in the 29th minute after Jean-Paul de Marigny had upended Vidmar in the area.

The match was all but wrapped up a a minute after the break when a defensive lapse allowed Vidmar to stride in behind the defence before putting the ball into the net.

Adcity added its fourth in the 80th minute when Vidmar provided a cheeky backheel for Melta to slam a first time shot into the net for his second of the match.

Little more could be said for Marconi. Paul Carter tried his hardest but nothing went right for the defending champions on the day.

MARCONI: Catlin, de Marigny, Wheatley, Calderan, Carter, Gomez, Gray, Katholos, Nastevski, de Jong (Colagiuri 62), Lowe.

ADCITY: Zabica, Shillabeer, Tobin, Flounders, T Vidmar; Melta, Villani (Dimoski 83), Santrac, Mullen, A Vidmar, Maxwell.

Referee: A Townsend. Crowd: 2958.

Sergio Melta did not score this time as he gets his shot away under the gaze of Peter Katholos, but the AdCity skipper netted twice in his team's 4-1 win over Marconi last Sunday. — Photo HECTOR CARRASCO.

TOP — Bruce Maclaren smothers the ball in the course of South Melbourne's scoreless draw some weeks ago. ABOVE — A packed midfield during last Sunday's Marconi v Adelaide City clash at Marconi Stadium, which the visitors easily won 4-1. — HECTOR CARRASCO pix.

Kelic scores again!

BY GREG BLAKE

THE contrast in emotions was stark and dramatic.

As refereee Jim Reeves whistled the end of Sunday's crucial Melbourne Croatia v Preston Makedonia shoot-out, Preston skipper George Petrov slumpde on his knees and threw his hands to his face.

Petrov's team had slumped to its third defeat in four games, this time at the hands of rampaging Croatia, and all of a sudden the premiership is looking a million kilometres away.

The Croatia players were jubilant but their agic moment had come some 10 minutes earlier when the match was still in the balance.

Croatia's master blaster Josip Biskic won the ball inside his own half and charged away on an electrifying run before sending Francis Awaritefe through with a typically splendid ball.

Croatia's "Black Pearl" flashed past Steve Jackson and only a desperate dive by Phil Triainides parried Awaritefe's shot into the path of Ivan Kelic.

The lanky striker relished the chance for his first successful strike since Round 5.

As the ball hit the back of the net Kelic wheeled away into the arms of rejoicing team-mates, and Awaritefe charged to the perimeter fence to do a fist-pumping war dance for the exultant Croatia fans.

It was that kind of a day in a finals atmosphere as Somers Street hosted its record attendance.

The game itself was hardly a classic exhibition, rather it unfolded as an enthralling struggle between two sides trying to flex their muscles as prospective Top Five campaigners.

Preston was anything but disgraced — it fought as much as it had done in many weeks, with the likes of Jackson,, Andrew Zinni, Ian Roodhouse, Petrov, Steve Smith and Robert Runje playing as if lives depended on them.

Warren Spink's nightmare continues and had one or two breaks gone his way, as they might have last year, the hardy little striker might have turned the game.

But it was Croatia's day.

We predicted no Zeljko Adzic, no Melbourne Croatia.

On Sunday there was no Adzic, no Alan Davidson, no Joe Caleta and no Ivan Duzel...

The absences slowed the normallyy free-wheeling Croatia express, but it didn't stop it in its tracks.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Grgic, Opasinis, Donnelly, Selemidis, Hannah, Talajic, Milosevic, Biskic, Kelic, Valentic, Awaritefe.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Triainides, Runje, Jolevski, Jackson, Roodhouse, Petrov, Zinni, Markovac (Slifkas 69), Smith, Markovski, Spink.

Referee: J.Reeves. Crowd: 6607.

Shaun Parton (Sunshine GC) has it all under control as Wollongong's Pat Brodnik eyes the football. CARMELO BAZZANO photo.

Kouis Collects

BY JOHN MANGAN

Heidelberg hoisted itself off the bottom of the table with an inspiring 1-0 win against St George at the Olympic Village on Sunday.

A 4000-strong crowd turned out to see Kostas Kouis, Heidelberg's import from Greek first division side Aris.

The fans got their money's worth in the 58th minute when the stylish attacker caught St George keeper Mike Gibson out of position and headed past him to set up Heidelberg's victory.

Kouis actually initiated the move when he stretched the visitors' defence, knocking the ball wide to John Stewart.

This was Kouis's second guest game for Heidelberg. He has two games to play and though not fully fit has already made such an impact that the club is negotiating to retain him until the end of the season.

While the clubrooms had a victorious atmosphere after the game, Heidelberg coach Miron Bleiberg is well aware that the struggle to avoid relegation is far from over.

The game was tight, and though Heidelberg had the better of the play it failed to improve on its slender one goal lead.

St George boss, Frank Arok, blamed poor finishing and a penalty appeal by Craig Moffitt which referee Chris Bambridge turned down for his team's defeat.

"It was a bad piece of goalkeeping that lead to their goal," he said.

The game seemed destined to end 0-0 during the first half as neither side created clear-cut chances.

However, St George began the second half at a cracking pace with David Ratcliffe drawing a spectacular diving save from Heidelberg's Socceroo keeper Jeff Olver.

Then Kouis struck for the home side, marking the beginning of a spell during which Heidelberg bombarded the St George goal, at times seemingly with little resistance.

Matthew Bingley had the best opportunity to salvage a point for the visitors when he won the ball in the penalty area, but struck his shot against the left upright.

HEIDELBERG: Olver, Kanesoulis, Scott, Russell, Ousalkas, Stewart, Gojevic, Stubbins, Stevenson (Goutzoulis 70m), Kouis (Lucchesi 82m), Tredinnick.

ST GEORGE: Gibson, Green, Grbevski (Harper 40m), Koczka, Ratcliffe, O'Shea, Ilic (Krslovic 60m), Moffitt, Bingley, Pottier, Ollerenshaw.

Referee: Chris Bambridge. Crowd: 4000.

John Krajnovic leaps for a take, watched by Mark Jones (left) and Graham Arnold.

WORLD U16 TOURNAMENT IN SCOTLAND

Joeys face East Germans

BY KEITH GILMOUR

Andrew French

Giovanni Montesano

FIFA has taken the unusual action of transferring East Germany into Group B, in which Australia plays, and replacing them in Group D with Portugal.

The move, although unexplained, is unquestionably because Group B contained the winners of Europe, South America, North and Central America and Oceania.

That, of course, left Group B as the unfairly handicapped section of the tournament.

Australia will gain marginally.

East Germany, which Australia now meets in its opening game at Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen, on Saturday, June 10, lost to Portugal 4-1 in the European under 16 championship final in Denmark.

The Portuguese also won the World Youth Championships in Saudi Arabia in February.

Group D now contains Portugal, Guinea, Colombia and Saudi Arabia.

The Australian under 16 team has been training at Valentine Park, Parklea, prior to leaving for Scotland on Friday.

Here are the travel details:

Accommodation at Parklea Complex, 482 Meurants Lane, Perklea, NSW 2148. Phone (02) 629 1800 Fax: (02) 629 3770.

Sydney to Amsterdam — Friday, 2nd June, 1989. FL. NO: KL844 DEPARTS: 11.45am.

Accommodation at De Frerikshof, Frerikshof 2, 7103 CA Winterswijk. Phone 05430-17755.

Amsterdam to Glasgow — Tuesday, 6th June, 1989. FL. NO: KL1612 DEPARTS: 1.40pm.

Accommodation at Bucksburn Moat House Hotel, Oldmeldrum Road, Bucksburn, ABERDEEN AB2 9LN. Phone 0224-713911 Telex: 73108 Fax: 0224-714020.

Progression to quarter finals: Accommodation at — University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA. Phone: 0786-73171. Telex: 777557. Fax: 0786-63000.

Aussies big factor in Belgian Cup

AUSTRALIAN-born Dutch international defender GRAEME RUTJES played a major role in helping fellow-Aussie Eddie Krncevic achieve his ambition to win the Belgian Cup before moving to French club Mulhouse.

Graeme Rutjes

Rutjes had the dubious distinction of scoring an own goal in the second leg of the semi-final when his club, Mechelen, was leading 3-0.

The goal enabled Anderlecht, who had won the first leg 2-0 (Krncevic scored a goal), to qualify for the final against Standard Liege in a mini-rematch of the Oceania World Cup decider.

Eddie Krncevic

Israeli stars Ronnie Rosenthal and Shalom Tivka play for Liege.

— LOU GAUTIER

FIFA's "No" to Nigeria

NIGERIA has failed to meet FIFA's criteria and will not stage the 1991 Youth World Cup finals.

The FIFA delegation, now visiting venues in Australia's bid for the tournament, concluded the African country wasn't ready yet to organise a competition of such magnitude.

The country only has three acceptable stadiums and no facilities at all for the printed and electronic media.

How will Australia, the hosts already once before — in 1981 — rate?

Will we meet FIFA's high standards?

FIFA is expected to announce its choice next weekend.

— LOU GAUTIER

Watch next week for a full preview of the 1989 under 16 Youth World Cup in Scotland featuring the talented young Australians.

ASF headed for the suburbs . . .

THE Australian Soccer Federation appears certain to move its headquarters next year.

While the ASF will still be based in Sydney, it will vacate its Clarence Street office in the central business district for cheaper premises in the suburbs.

The current office space is said to cost the financially strapped Federation more than $1000 a week.

ASF chairman Ian Brusasco is adamant less expensive office space has to be found once the Clarence Street lease expires in December.

While the national body is reported to be leaning towards a venue close to Sydney Airport, the splendid Parklea facility, where the NSW Federation is headquartered, would appear ideal despite its considerable distance from the city centre.

Ian Brusasco has asked general-secretary Alan Vessey to come up with an office set-up to accommodate the National Soccer League secretariat as well and to make better use of the staff.

He wants the move planned well before the CBD lease runs out.

PERSONALITY PLAYER

GERRY GOMEZ (Marconi Fairfield)

FULL NAME: Gerry Gomez
BIRTHPLACE: Costa Rica
BIRTHDATE: 18.8.60
HEIGHT: 6ft 1in
WEIGHT: 76 kg
PREVIOUS CLUB : Sydney City
MARRIED: No
JOB: Women's tailor
CAR: BMW 320
NICKNAME: Carl Lewis
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Pele
FAVOURITE LOCAL PLAYER: Zlatko Nastevski
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Manis Lamond
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Marconi v Sydney Croatia 1988
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Sent off in 1988 grand final
BIGGEST THRILL IN SOCCER: Scoring goals
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Bicycle riding and tennis
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Seafood and fruit juice
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Cosby Show
FAVOURITE ACTORS: Eddie Murphy
FAVOURITE POP STAR: Michael Jackson
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Eddie Thomson
AMBITION: To play as long as possible
LIKES & HOBBIES: Everything good in life
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: v Tottenham Hotspur and Vasco da Gama
PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: Jesus Christ

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By Dusan Purac

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Polonia deserves draw in Canberra

BY GRAHAM COOKE

POLONIA got the point they deserved with a gritty, hard-working display against high-flying Canberra Croatia at Deakin Oval on Sunday.

"Flat" was the word Croatia coach Jimmy Shoulder used to sum up his team's performance in the 1-1 draw with Polonia — and on reflection there hardly seems a more appropriate word to describe a game the home side will certainly want to forget.

To suggest lowly Polonia dragged the opposition down to its level in this dour struggle would be to do an injustice to the visitors, who ran and chased harder and generally seemed to have a much greater interest in what was happening on the park.

Player for player, Canberra was the better team. But on this day it lacked flair, imagination and perhaps most importantly the will to take hold and run the game.

The attitude was typified by two free kicks, both in dangerous positions near the edge of the penalty area, and both hammered senselessly against the Polonia wall.

If there is to be any explanation beyond the capabilities of the players themselves, it was the unsettling effect of two early injuries.

First Ray Junna, who has been doubtful earlier in the week with a strained hamstring, started the game but lasted just 15 minutes, then Peter Mazis came off with a similar problem before halftime.

Croatia started well and was worth a goal lead when, after 19 minutes, Marko Perinovic met a cross with a typically brave diving header which had Polonia goalkeeper Bruce Thurlow clutching at air.

It could so easily have been 2-0 four minutes later when Perinovic headed on from a corner to Jason Dunn, up from defence, who side-footed against the post.

Polonia came back with a powerful drive from Henry Mossa which Anthony Giannasca saved at the second attempt, and equalised in the 34th minute when Pawel Janduda popped up to take advantage of indecisiveness in the home back line.

Canberra made most of the running in the second half but did not come close to scoring until a flurry in the last 10 minutes.

First Perinovic put Gary Cole away only for the big striker to hit high and wide of the goal; a cross from Doug Marcina had Lemezina and Alan Reis queuing at the far post — both missed; finally Reis, at top speed, shot across the face of the goal and just wide of the upright.

Shoulder said he had thought the team had reached the stage when past poor performances against indifferent opposition would not be repeated. "Obviously I was wrong."

"The two strikers would have been just as effective sitting in the stands — that wasn't all their fault because a lot of the service was poor.

"But generally the overall form was disappointing. Jason Dunn and Andrew Young did not move the ball quickly enough out from the back and only the midfield played anything like it should."

There is no doubt that Shoulder, who leaves to take up a job in England next week, will be working hard to ensure his final game with the club — at Canterbury on Sunday — is a better memorial to his work than this one.

CANBERRA CROATIA: Giannasca, R Junna (Marcina 15), Mazis (C Junna 40), Dunn, Young, Kulscar, Sermanni, Cole, Perinovic, Reis, Lemezina.

POLONIA: Thurlow, Chau, Kisacanin, Lasek, Kulwicki, Thompson (Beamer 55), Mossa, Thompson, Anderson (Pratt 71), Janduda, Janic.

Referee: J Jenkins. Crowd: 1,708.

CONSTANTINE AT ARLINGTON

John Constantine, the NSW Soccer Federation president was enjoying the briliant sunshine at Arlington Oval as the Greek backed Canterbury Marrickville Olympic managed to win narrowly 1-0 against the visiting Newcastle Austral.

However the sunshine at Arlington did little to enhance the spirits of the rest of the League clubs as yet another weekend of gloom over the postponed games rained over the NSW League itinerary.

Only two matches were played with four being cancelled.

"We inspected the ground at Knight Park at 8.00am with the referee, but there was no way the game could go ahead. The ground was so soggy my shoes sunk to my ankles. It was heartbreaking, looking at all that sunshine bearing down on us and the prospect of a good crowd, yet we had to cancel the match against Rockdale Ilinden," said a dissapointed Jack Cirnanic, Avala's secretary.

Wollongong Macedonia had its game against Warringah Freshwater cancelled after a last minute inspection by Gary Power, the referee at 10.00am. "We gavw it every chance, waiting till the last possible moment, but it just wasn't to be," said Macedonia's president, Alex Kencevski.

Penrith Uruguay, languishing at the foot of the State League ladder were hoping for a change in fortunes against Inter Monaro at Cook Park last weekend, alas the ground was declared unfit for play last Thursday!

Sutherland Shire was to face Melita Eagles in the match of the round at Seymour Shaw Park, but there again the ground was simply to soft to walk on let alone play a game of football.

Canberra Croatia were on course to overtake Melita as it faced Polonia at Deakin Oval, but the condition of the gorund was not at fault as Canberra struggled.

Marko Perinović scored his sixth goal of the season to join Greg Brown of Melita as the top goalscorer in the League to date and give his side the edge early against Polonia.

Pavel Janduda replied close to half time and the game ended in a 1-1 draw leaving Melita still perched at the top on goal averages.

Louis Dounis Rockdale

N.S.W.

FIRST DIVISION with ALEX VESIC

NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION		
Canterbury v Newcastle Austral	1-0	2-2
Wollongong Mac. v Warringah F'water	w/o	w/o
Sutherland Shire v Melita Eagles	w/o	w/o
Avala v Rockdale Ilinden	w/o	w/o
Canberra Croatia v Polonia	1-1	6-0
Penrith Uruguay v Inter Monaro	w/o	w/o
STATE LEAGUE 2ND DIVISION		
Bathurst '75 v Bankstown	1-1	3-1
Dulwich Hill v Manly Warringah	w/o	w/o
Waverley SC v Orange Waratah	1-0	7-3
Gladesville H'by v Fairy Meadow	w/o	w/o
SSC Yugal v Mount Druitt	w/o	w/o
Sydney Macedonia v North Shore United	w/o	w/o
Campbelltown Vik' v Granville Chile	1-4	1-1
FEDERATION LEAGUE THREE		
Rosebery Portugal v Blacktown United	w/o	w/o
Rooty Hill/West Utd v Southern Districts	w/o	w/o
Mt Pritchard v Port Hacking	w/o	w/o
Concordia v Moorebank L'pool	w/o	w/o
Canterbury Dist. v Hills United	0-7	1-1
Central Coast v Uni of NSW	w/o	w/o
FEDERATION LEAGUE FOUR		
Hajduk Rangers v Cyprus United	w/o	w/o
Nineveh Eagles v Fairfield Kiev	4-0	3-1
Eastwood St And. v Croatia Syd. Jnrs	1-0	1-2
Padstow Park v Spanish Club	w/o	w/o
North Ryde RSL v Petersham	1-2	3-1
Hawkesbury Dist. v Transandinos	0-2	1-2
FEDERATION LEAGUE FIVE		
CSI Schofields v Chile Sports	w/o	w/o
Concord Juniors v Sydney Uni	1-0	1-4
SSC Zagreb v Arncliffe	w/o	w/o
Sporting Peru v Blacktown Wand.	w/o	w/o
Macquarie Uni v Colo Colo	w/o	w/o
FEDERATION LEAGUE SIX		
Ashour Star v Cobreloa	4-1	6-1
W.D. Hellas v Prospect Utd	w/o	w/o
GNS United v Abruzzi	4-1	3-5
Alexander v Belmore Hercules	3-3	[illegible]
Liverpool City v Sydney Lebanon	*w/o*	w/o
Lithgow Workmen v Maccabi Hakoah	2-2	2-1
FEDERATION LEAGUE SEVEN		
Pagewood Botany v AS Noantri	3-0	3-0
Korean v Balmain PCYC	w/o	w/o
Luddenham Croatia v Aust Romanian	3-3	6-0
Liverpool Oly v Assyrian	1-3	2-0
Fogolar Furlan v St Josephs	w/o	w/o

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Olympic ready for PAOK at SFS

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

PETER Raskopoulos and Mike McGarry, the two Sydney Olympic midfielders, will be rushed back into the line-up for tonight's clash against touring Greek club PAOK at the Sydney Football Stadium.

The match, which is being presented by the NSW Soccer Federation, kicks off at 8.15pm, with an early NSL fixture between Apia and South Melbourne starting at 6.30pm.

Olympic coach Eddie Thomson told ASW last night: "Both Rasko and McGarry will be in the side against PAOK.

"Following PAOK's classy 2-1 win last Sunday in the opening match of their Australian tour against Adelaide Hellas, we cannot take chances.

"I want Raskopoulos back for his long-range distribution and McGarry for his accurate crosses into the box."

John Anastasiadis (right) in action for Heidelberg against South Melbourne Hellas.

PAOK plays in the Greek First Divsion and is based in the northern city of Salonika.

PAOK's top star is the skilful international midfielder George Skartados.

It is also the club that Australia's Charlie Yankos and John Anastasiadis play for.

However, Yankos has not accompanied the team to Australia.

Last Sunday, Anastasiadis impressed Adelaide fans at Hindmarsh Stadium with his skills and crosses.

In fact, he set up PAOK's first goal, a header, as early as in the fifth minute which was scored by Lagionidis.

Berries aim high

STRIKER Nick Oustambasidis managed to score the only goal of the match against Newcastle Austral last Saturday at Arlington Oval to provide his new side with an outside chance of snatching a place in the top four.

It was his third goal in as many games and the one that might prove most vital in the race for the play-offs.

Tomislav Divljak, formerly of Yugal and more recently of Blacktown City in the NSL, turned match-winner with one of his telling passes in the 60th minute.

He drew a couple of Austral players, then pushed his pass into the path of Tony Parison, who slammed his cross low into the penalty area for Oustambasidis at the far post.

Oustambasidis only had to slide the ball into an empty net for the clinching goal.

That was game, set and match for Canterbury, and ended yet another disappointing run for Austral.

Neither side was able to be creative or to penetrate on a pitch that offered little assistance to good football.

But the locals were able to show more cohesion in the second period and soon asserted their superiority.

Some spite was shown by both sets of players as the search for that ever elusive goal was mounted.

Referee Nick Asargiotis issued four yellow cards to Newcastle players.

At one stage Michael Boogaard received a card after clashing with Marshall Soper but in my view it should have gone the other way.

Keeper Chris Hummel was as safe as a bank while sweeper Spiro Hantzis showed the guile and enthusiasm to break up attack after attack.

His last gasp, desperate tackle in the 75th minute which foiled Mark Elrick close to the goal-line certainly went a long way to keeping both points at Arlington.

The speed of Parison, the skills and superb distribution of Divljak, the enterprise of Soper and the finishing of Oustambasidis will come to the fore in better conditions and they will go a long way to seeing Canterbury in the top four.

Canterbury Marrickville: Hummel, Godzik, Spanoudakis, Radman, Hantzis, Plataniotis, Soper, Divljak, Parison, Kalogeras (Zervas 68m), Oustambasidis.

Newcastle Austral: Carter, Bowen (Achurch 61m), Jones, Owens, Boogaard, Shell, McWhirter, Porter, Bailey, Calmakamis (Elrick 66m), Elphick.

Melita ready for Macedonia

WOLLONGONG Macedonia, one of the pre-season favourites to take the title and head for the dizzy heights of the NSL competition, are coming to town to do battle with the league leaders Melita Eagles.

So far the visitors from Wollongong have failed to impress, losing three matches in the space of six rounds completed by the side so far. Six points out of a possible 12 are hardly the tonic needed for the team that boasts some seven players with the NSL experience.

Melita Eagles, one of the co-favourites for the title, certainly have every reason to smile. Five wins and a draw out of seven matches played put Melita at the top of the table and looking every inch a champion team.

Coach Raul Blanco certainly has the Eagles soaring.

This is going to be a clash of two schools of football. The no-frills Wollongong side, against an attractive and full of purpose Melita.

For the visitors it is a must-win situation and in the circumstances I prefer to be playing in the red and white colours of Melita.

For the record Melita have won three and drawn one against Wollongong in the past two years.

Another fixture full of interest will be at Arlington Oval for the Canterbury-Canberra Croatia clash. Canterbury surprised Canberra last year winning 5-2 and 2-1 and will be looking to repeat the same feat this season.

With Marshall Soper firing on all cylinders and Canterbury's backline managing to keep its net intact in the last 180 minutes of football the obvious question will be just how good is the front line of Perinovic-Cole-Reis?

Inter Monaro and Newcastle Austral have drawn three out of their last four matches and it will not surprise if yet another share of the spoils occurs.

N.S.W. FIRST DIVISION with ALEX VESIC

Warringah Freshwater, with their defence strengthened by the arrival of the OFK Belgrade stopper Djura Stanimirovic, will face Uruguay Penrith, also boosted by the dynamic Carlos Xavier Pou.

Melita Eagles get the ball as Canberra Croatia seem to raise their hands in horror. — Pic: NEIL HUMMEL.

It is a do-or-die match for Uruguay and just as important to the locals as they clash at Cromer Park.

In a tight and dour struggle I feel that the home side must be favoured to take the points.

Rockdale Ilinden will entertain Sutherland Shire at Hurstville with the record favouring the home team.

Scorelines of 2-1 and 3-2 last year should give Ilinden the edge, but with Zlatko Markovski and Greg Lerond on the injured list for the home team one would back the visitors.

Polonia will have a tough one on their hands when they clash with Avala at Chopin Park.

Should they repeat their fine form of last Sunday's game in Canberra, then Avala will find it difficult to succeed indeed.

Henjek Mojsa, the newly arrived Polish First Division player, will be joining Pavel Janduda and Stefan Janic to spearhead Polonia's attack.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER ANNUAL

NSW State League Div 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melita Eagles	7	5	1	1	20	7	11
Canberra Croatia	8	5	1	2	15	8	11
Avala	6	3	2	1	8	4	8
Inter Monaro	8	4	0	4	9	16	8
Canterbury	7	3	1	3	9	8	7
Wollongong Mac.	6	3	0	3	9	8	6
Sutherland Shire	5	2	1	2	5	5	5
Newcastle Austral	8	2	1	5	6	7	5
Warringah F'water	5	1	3	1	3	6	5
Polonia	6	2	1	3	6	11	5
Rockdale Ilinden	5	2	0	3	7	9	4
Penrith Uruguay	5	0	1	4	5	13	1

U/19

Canberra Croatia	8	7	1	0	24	3	15
Avala	6	4	1	1	16	7	9
Melita Eagles	4	3	1	0	9	2	7
Rockdale Ilinden	5	3	0	2	15	12	6
Newcastle Austral	6	1	4	1	11	10	6
Canterbury	7	2	2	3	14	14	6
Inter Monaro	8	1	3	4	8	12	5
Wollongong Mac.	6	2	1	3	8	14	5
Sutherland Shire	5	2	0	3	7	12	4
Polonia	5	1	1	3	4	15	3
Warringah F'water	4	0	2	2	4	9	2
Penrith Uruguay	4	0	0	4	3	13	0

Results

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC 1 (N.Oustambasidis) NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL 0 at Arlington Oval.
CANBERRA CROATIA 1 (M. Perinovic) POLONIA 1 (P. Janduda) at Deakin Oval.
AVALA - ROCKDALE ILINDEN postponed.
PENRITH URUGUAY - INTER MONARO postponed.
WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA - WARRINGAH FRESHWATER postponed.
SUTHERLAND SHIRE - MELITA EAGLES postponed.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

N.S.W.

This Week's Matches

SATURDAY JUNE 3

DIVISION 1

Rockdale Ilinden	**v**	**Sutherland Shire**	**Hurstville Oval**

DIVISION 2

Manly Warringah	v	SSC Yugal	Cromer Park

DIVISION 3

Concordia	v	Mt Pritchard	Arlington Oval
Blacktown United	v	Central Coast	Francis Park

SUNDAY JUNE 4

DIVISION 1

Inter Monaro	**v**	**Newcastle Austral**	**Marco Polo**
Warringah F'water	**v**	**Penrith Uruguay**	**Cromer Park**
Melita Eagles	**v**	**Wollongong Mac.**	**Melita Stadium**
Polonia	**v**	**Avala**	**Chopin Park**
Canterbury	**v**	**Canberra Croatia**	**Arlington Oval**

DIVISION 2

Fairy Meadow	v	Bathurst '75	Brandon Park
Granville Chile	v	Dulwich Hill	Garside Park
Mt Druitt	v	Sydney Macedonia	Popondetta Park
Bankstown	v	Campbelltown Vik'	Potts Park
Gladesville H'by	v	Orange Waratahs	Pioneer Park
North Shore United	v	Waverley SC	Parklands Reserve

DIVISION 3

Blacktown United	v	Uni of NSW	Francis Park
Southern Districts	v	Rosebery Portugal	Ernie Smith Reserve
Port Hacking	v	Rooty Hill/West Utd	Seymour Shaw Park
Canterbury District	v	Moorebank L'pool	Mackey Park
Central Coast	v	Hills United	Bill Pluim Park

Kick-off times: First grade 3pm, Under 19 1pm, unless otherwise stated.

See a top State League match this week!

FRANCIS AWARITEFE

Gullit "look-alike" came for love

BY GREG BLAKE

IT's not unfair to say that Francis Awaritefe is one of the most unusual looking players running around in the NSL in 1989.

He's lanky and awkward-looking, black with dreadlocked hair and he sports an enormous toothy grin.

If nothing else, Awaritefe stands out in the crowd.

He admits as much.

"I do look awkard — I certainly haven't got classic movements," he says with the perfunctory easy smile.

"Maybe that helps me to confuse opponents."

The 25-year-old former Sutton (English non-league) striker has certainly settled in well in his first NSL season.

And he obviously enjoys his game.

During a hectic clash against Apia recently, Awaritefe had an intriguing duel with the relentess Apia defence but, as usual, he came away smiling.

"Yes, I've settled down well,' he told ASW.

"I'm really enjoying it very much. I've always loved playing the game, but it's even better now because I really never expected to be playing at the level I do now.

"To be honest, in England, people do not think much of football in Australia and I guess I had a poor impression of the game before I came over.

"But having been here for a while, I must say I've been really impressed by the standard of the game.

"Individually, the players are far more skilled than the those in the league I played with back home.

"I really like the way clubs like South Melbourne play and some of the National Leaguers really are talented.

"The guy that has really stood out for me is Zlatko Nastevski, but there are a number of others."

The big, raw-boned Chelsea-born striker nearly didn't play for Melbourne Croatia.

Awaritefe had trials with South Melbourne Hellas, but decided on Croatia after a phone call to the then coach Ian Wallace late last year.

But soccer was hardly the reason for Awaritefe's move to his new home in the Melbourne suburb of Elwood.

It was for a match, a love match with an Aussie girl whom Francis fell for when she lived in the UK for three years.

When girlfriend Magnolia decided it was time to move back home, Awaritefe wasn't far behind and now he's here he wants to stay.

And whilst he enjoys the lifestyle, his coach, Ivan Raznjevic, would like nothing more than to keep the big man in his attack.

Awaritefe, who has settled into a computer operator's job with BHP, is just as keen on his new coach and team-mates — particularly now with a sniff of the finals in the air.

"I rate him (Raznjevic) very highly," he says of his newest coach.

"And the team is playing ever so well at the moment — everyone is working for each other and we're looking forward to the play-offs."

FRANCIS AWARTIFE: thriving in his new surroundings.

"Francis is playing very well," says Raznjevic.

"In the beginning, he wasn't the fighting type of player he is today, but he is improving all the time.

"His contribution has been marvellous for us and if he continues to develop, he'll be a great asset to this club."

As for being one of the few black players in the NSL — and the only one sporting the famous 'Gullit' type hairstyle — he says he only cops a little stick.

"Generally no, no-one says much. Certainly no more than I got back in England.

And it doesn't bother me anyway."

APIA boss is spitting fire

BY GREG BLAKE

Apia Leichahrdt's 1989 squad — treated unfairly by the Melbourne media?

APIA Leichhardt boss Michael Urukalo is, to put it bluntly, bloody angry.

I should know because Mike (call me Michael) made quite a point of telling me so recently.

Which is a fair cop really because Urukalo's Apia team of 1989 has taken more flak this season than any team in recent memory.

Dubbed 'Dad's Army' (boy, does he hate that nickname) pre-season Apia had suffered consistent bucketing from the press and, more particularly, the Melbourne media.

Many of the Melbourne press corps, by the way, are now on Apia's blacklist.

As Urukalo told me in no uncertain terms himself last week he's been prepared to "cop it sweet" and let his team do the talking.

Which is also fair enough, considering Apia is a good bet for the play-offs to everyone's surprise.

But the final straw for Urukalo and the Apia boys came on their recent trip to Melbourne to play Melbourne Croatia.

One Melbourne daily newspaper quoted Urukalo as having slammed the Melbourne team on the eve of the match.

Urukalo denies having made any such comments and the Melbourne journo in question is probably lucky not to have finished with his nose all over his face.

"Do you really think I'd say something like that?

"I've got to motivate my players and I'm certainly not going to give ammunition to Melbourne Croatia," Urukalo told ASW.

To add fuel to the fire, Apia was beaten in that game and Melbourne Croatia coach Ivan Raznjevic slammed Apia for so-called "wrestling".

"That type of soccer has to be eliminated from the game," Raznjevic said after the match.

And those comments were the final straw for Urukalo.

"You bet I'm more than slightly irritated," the normally placid Apia coach told me.

"I'm downright angry at this Raznjevic joker.

"I don't mind a bit of criticism, but it's got to be constructive and not that sort of rubbish. I don't believe my team is a wrestling team, as he puts it.

"Look, I'll say right now that they (Melbourne Croatia) won that game fair and square.

MIKE URUKALO

"Let's be fair about this: Raznjevic and the press have said that we're this and we're that, but the fact is that we had one of the best referees in the country in charge of that game and it certainly wasn't a game of eight or 10 yellow cards.

"There was nothing wrong with the way we played, but the average guy in the street will pick up the papers and label us as the dirtiest team in the league.

"We've been labelled all this season and I'm just about sick of it."

Urukalo is the first to admit his 1989 Apia isn't in the Marconi bracket yet.

But despite the raw edges rubbing off his virtually all-new team, the hard-man tag has stuck with the club since its 1987 championship days.

The Apia of 1987 wasn't the dirtiest outfit around but it was tough and match-hardened, and that reputation has stuck like glue to the chagrin of Urukalo.

"From the outset, they (the press) have been on our backs.

"In a poll I read recently something like 14 out of 22 journalists tipped us for relegation this year.

"Well, we're not going to be relegated, we're going to be in the finals and we're doing that with virtually a new team.

"People have just overlooked that we've got 11 new players at the club this year and despite what's been said we've played some good football in 1989.

"As for the Dad's Army rubbish, this team's average age is actually younger than that of Marconi's.

"We bought three older players (O'Connor, Kosmina and Mason) but we needed the experience in the team and right now we have a good blend.

"We can't get the consistency I'd like and we aren't playing the flowing soccer of Marconi or Melbourne Croatia, but it's coming right and we'll just have to keep on going and hope the results speak for themselves."

Huge ground rental increase threatens JUST

BY GREG BLAKE

MELBOURNE City JUST is fighting for its life on three fronts following a shock Melbourne City Council decision to increase the club's rental on its Schintler Reserve home ground by a staggering $59,125.

The 10,000 percent plus increase — from $250 to $59,375 — is threatening to cripple the struggling Melbourne club which is already fighting for its NSL life.

JUST, Melbourne's first privately owned NSL club, has recently fought off a take-over bid by a 10-man group led by former president Tony Amon.

But it is the massive rent rise which is causing the current club owners their greatest headache.

Under the terms of the 21-year sublease of Schintler Reserve in Footscray, Melbourne City JUST pays the Melbourne City Council an annual rental equal to two-and-a-half times the amount the council pays the State Government.

For the last 10 years, the council paid a nominal $100, leaving JUST with a $250 payout.

This year the council has been called upon to pay some $23,000 with the club left to fork out almost $60,000.

"And they've demanded that we pay immediately," troubled club director Ken Knight told the press last week.

"The money is just not there and we've got solicitors trying to put it on hold.

"From a legal point of view, the council has every right, but from a moral point of view how can they justify such an increase for land on which they don't even cut the grass?

"Our position is particularly delicate because our lease says that if we upset the council, they can force us out and demolish all the improvements at the ground."

After clearing debts of over $100,000 left by previous committees, the club has spent well over $1 million on ground improvements since the private owners moved in late last year.

Much of the money has gone into JUST's social club, which was to have been in operation in April but is now due to open early in August.

NSL PLAY-OFF PROSPECTS

Make-or-break final seven weeks for Top 5 contenders

BY GREG BLAKE

MARCONI's break at the head of the ladder is likely to see it to the minor premiership, as the NSL moves into the "business end" of the season — the final seven weeks.

But it is only by virtue of its considerable lead which makes the Fairfield club a near-certainty to finish top, as both Marconi and Preston Makedonia face the toughest runs home of all the finals contenders.

The race for the finals is virtually over for six clubs.

Forget Melbourne City JUST, Heidelberg, Sunshine George Cross and Wollongong City, and only minor miracles could propel Blacktown City, with games in hand, or out-of-touch South Melbourne into finals calculations.

If we assume Marconi is an odds-on certainty to make the play-offs, that leaves four places up for grabs between seven teams.

Seven into four just doesn't go, so it will be cut-throat, make-or-break stuff for Melbourne Croatia, Preston, St George, Sydney Olympic, Adelaide City, Sydney Croatia and Apia over these final weeks of the season.

In-form Melbourne Croatia is set to contest its first finals series since 1986.

Croatia plays four of its last seven at home and three of those games are against also-rans of the competition.

Three wins and an extra point or two should see the club safely home.

Shaky Ground

Preston, which has struggled at home in recent weeks, is on shaky ground.

Like Marconi, Preston faces five other finals contenders in the desperate closing weeks of the season, and a finals berth could hinge on the very last game of the season when Preston is away at Marconi.

Solid St George has games in hand over the rest and with seven of its last 10 at home Frank Arok's team will steal a finals place and is well placed to even consider third post and the double chance.

Adelaide City and Sydney Olympic are running into form at the right time. With near-identical records it could be a battle between the pair for a finals place.

Olympic has a game in hand over Adelaide City and it could settle the issue when the South Australians travel to meet Olympic in 10 days's time.

Sydney Croatia will know its fate for 1989 shortly.

Croatia faces testing away games at Apia, St George and Marconi in this period and it must win at least two of those games to ensure it doesn't drop out of the running.

Apia, considered pre-season as the darkest of dark horses for the finals, is still a chance to go through as it has at least one game in hand on the rest of the teams in the running.

The path to the finals:

MARCONI

A Blacktown
H Wollongong
A St George
H Syd. Olympic
H Syd. Croatia
A Melb. Croatia
H Preston

MELB. CROATIA

A Sunshine GC
H South Melbourne
A Adelaide City
H Wollongong
A Syd. Olympic
H Marconi
H Melbourne City

PRESTON

H Melbourne City
A Heidelberg
A St George
H Apia
A Blacktown
H St George
A Syd. Olympic
A Marconi

ST GEORGE

H Apia
H Blacktown
A Blacktown
H Preston
H Marconi
H Syd. Croatia
A Preston
H Sunshine GC
A South Melbourne
H Melbourne City ★

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

A South Melbourne
H Adelaide City
A Wollongong
A Apia
A Marconi
H Melb. Croatia
A Melbourne City
H Heidelberg

ADELAIDE CITY

H Wollongong
A Syd. Olympic
H Melb. Croatia
A Melbourne City
H Heidelberg
A Apia
H Blacktown

APIA

H South Melbourne
A St George
H Syd. Croatia
A Preston
H Syd. Olympic
H Sunshine GC
A South Melbourne
H Adelaide City
A Wollongong

The all-conquering Marconi. BACK ROW, L to R: Gerry Gomez, Vince Colagiuri, Bob Catlin, Steve Calderan, Paul Carter, Zlatko Nastevski. FRONT: Peter Katholos, Jean-Paul de Marigny, David Lowe, Robert Wheatley, Ian Gray, Fred de Jong.

SYDNEY CROATIA

H Heidelberg
A Apia
H Blacktown
A St George
A Marconi
H Preston
A Sunshine GC
A Blacktown ★

★ denotes games still to be re-scheduled

How they stood after round 19 in 1988:

Sydney Croatia	26
Marconi	24
Sth Melbourne	24
Wollongong	23
Sunshine GC	22
Melb. Croatia	21
Melbourne City	18
Sydney Olympic	18
Adelaide City	17
APIA	16
St George	15
Preston	15
Brisbane Lions	11
Brunswick J	8

And how they finished:

Wollongong	34
Sydney Croatia	34
Sth Melbourne	34
Marconi	32
Sydney Olympic	27
Adelaide City	27
Sunshine GC	27
St George	26
Melb. Croatia	24
Melbourne City	23
APIA	23
Preston	22
Brunswick J	19
Brisbane Lions	12

Australia now producing the goods

BY MIKE JOHNSON

"THERE's been some great games of soccer played in the last few days."

So said John Warren over the phone from his property in Canberra.

Warren earns his living from watching and commenting on the soccer scene throughout the world.

University educated, I coached him at St George and rated him one of the best big match players I have ever encounted.

At times a seemingly average player, he could rise to amazing heights under the stimulus of a challenge, or big match atmosphere, hence his captaincy of Australia.

His exit from playing soccer, when he scored the winning goal for St George late in a NSW Grand Final against Hakoah in 1974 then immediately left the field, tells of his love of the dramatic, which abounds on big occasions.

Thus he found the drama and pathos of the FA Cup Final at Wembley enormously appealing.

What a great game had Neville Southall in goal for Everton and what a story he told as he sat alone, slumped against one of his goal posts, through all of the Liverpool victory celebrations.

It was as though Southall did not want to climb up those stairs and collect his loser's medal.

That he would like to just fade away from that scene and find himself back in his Liverpool home amid the familiarity of his wife and family, with a cup of tea and the tele, away from the maddening crowd and the painful feelings losing can bring.

I felt for the losing coach Colin Harvey who has not been able to continue the success his predeccessor, Howard Kendall had with Everton.

That loss might mean Harvey's job, whereas a win might have given him more years at the top.

Lack of penetration in attack and a suspect back four, which even the superb Southall could not shore up, are probably the reasons for Everton's poor season.

As we said last week, good teams make coaches, but good coaches can also have a mighty effect on teams.

How good is Kenny Dalglish?

Manager Bill Shankly built Liverpool's reputation during the 1970s followed by Joe Fagan who was successful though not to the same degree, then came Dalglish who has been more successful than any of them.

Last year Liverpool played the best soccer ever of any team in England.

It is a pity it was unable to compete against the best in Europe, where I am sure it would also have carried all before it.

English club sides traditionally have been very successful in the various European competitions.

Last year's Liverpool was superior to any other British team.

In Napoli's UEFA Cup triumph against Germany's FC Stuttgart it was sad to hear the match commentator remark about Diego Maradona's reduced pace.

Maradona set up two goals with immaculate passes, when some little while ago he would have had the speed to go on his own and score himself.

Who will ever forget his solo goal for Argentina against England?

Time goes by and for strikers it goes by swifter than for others.

Shooting skill

Yet here in Australia just a few days ago I saw two of the best goals you could ever see from New Zealand international Kevin Hagan.

Playing for APIA against Marconi, the over 30 year old striker bent a free-kick around the wall, then got another goal with a brillant overhead kick.

Hagan's sometime partner at APIA John Kosmina, whom I consider more fluent and quick with his repartee on television these days then he sometimes is with his feet, may have to drop back to NSW State League like Gary Cole to experience the thrill of the regular goals on which all strikers thrive.

Kosmina is the best player to have come out of Australia so far, and that includes the excellent Eddie Krncevic.

I had him as a youngster and despite his many games for Australia, his many goals and his captaincy he never truly realised the potential that the had.

That could only have been realised in Europe.

There have been some good players to come out of Australia in recent times.

There will be great players of Australian extraction playing on the world scene in years to come.

Sometimes people are despondent; but think of the positives.

So Sydney Olympic owes its bank money. So does Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspurs and most other big clubs around the world.

So we need bigger crowds. So does most everywhere.

So we need better soccer — that is happening.

So we need better stadiums — that is happening.

We need better administration, better sponsorship, a better television deal — it is all happening.

In 1969 I coached Sutherland for four years, starting in NSW State League Second Division.

Five of the players went on to represent Australia and they could hardly play, such was their lack of basic technique

I now coach a NSW Third Division team and the improved technical ability is immense.

Australia is assured of becoming a World Soccer force. Do not doubt it.

European Champions' Cup final

Double Dutch treat as AC Milan swamps Steaua

BY LOU GAUTIER

AFTER a 20-year wait, AC Milan reclaimed the European Champions' Cup by outclassing Romanian army team Steaua Bucharest 4-0 in Barcelona's Nou Camp Stadium last Wednesday.

Milan, which last won Europe's premier trophy in 1969, were virtually playing at home as 85 percent of 96,000 spectators were Italian fans who had travelled to the Catalan seaport in the greatest migration of supporters in the history of sport.

The Italian side, playing in all-white instead of their usual black-and-red stripes, ripped a strangely subdued Steaua apart for the most emphatic final win since Bayern Munich whipped Atletico Madrid in the 1974 replay.

There was only one team in it from the start.

Milan goalie Giovanni Galli was not required to make a serious save whereas the Italians could easily have scored three more goals to make the rout even more comprehensive.

Once again, the team's Dutch connection played a vital role.

Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten scored two goals each and Frank Rijkaard was imperial in defence and continually came forward, peppering several shots at goal into the bargain.

Gullit was the embodiment of the marvels of modern surgery.

Only 28 days earlier he had undergone arthroscopic cartilage repair to his right knee — an operation which a few years ago would have sidelined him for six months at least.

Yet, there he was at his inspired best, working the full length of the field, scoring two marvellous goals and unluckily hitting the post once.

The fact that he limped off the field in the 69th minute, from a different injury, did not dim his brilliance. He was the man of the match.

Gullit and van Basten played as twin strikers, turning the disorganised Romanian defence inside out.

Gullit opened the scoring in the 19th minute. Angelo Colombo and the classy Mauro Tassotti sliced through the Steaua defence with a breathtaking interchange of deft passes.

When the cross came over, goalie Silviu Lung could only parry the ball onto the feet of Gullit, who was only to happy to tap it into an empty net.

Ten minutes later, it was 2-0 as van Basten headed the ball from 12 metres into the right hand side of the net, out of the grasping Lung's reach.

AC Milan's Ruud Gullit brandishes the European Champions' Cup, his second major continental trophy in less than a year, after his club demolished Steaua Bucharest last Wednesday in Barcelona.

The ecstatic Milan fans had barely finished celebrating when Gullit scored his second — and the best goal of the game.

The Duch maestro controlled Roberto Donadoni's cross on his chest, then pirouetted and volleyed it high into the left corner with lightning-fast speed and accuracy.

The final goal fell players started arguing amongst themselves as early as midway through the first half when their chances had already evaporated.

Despite the one-sided nature of the contest, the match was a joy to behold, Milan emulating the all-attacking style of the Real Madrids and Benficas of the early days of the European Cup.

There was none of the dour, sterile football associated with the Italian teams of the 60s and 70s.

AC Milan had won the 1963 and 1969 finals, against Benfica and Ajax Amsterdam respectively, in boring fashion, but this third triumph was champagne football all the way.

Even at 4-0, they sent wave upon wave of majestic attacks towards the Steaua goal and only Pietro Paolo Virdis, who came in for Gullit, knows how he missed a couple of absolute sitters.

Milan were also never quite so fluent with within 90 seconds of the start of the second half when van Basten, not to be outdone by Gullit, notched his second goal.

Van Basten came close on a couple of occasions to getting another, which would have emulated Pierino Prati's hat-trick when Milan beat Benfica in the 1963 final.

Steaua Bucharest, who have not been beaten in Romanian domestic competition for almost three years, came up woefully short.

Nothing went right for them and their Gullit off the pitch, which only goes to prove they would have finished much closer to arch-rivals Inter in the Italian league had the dreadlocked Dutchman not missed more than a third of the season through injury.

Steaua were depressingly stereotyped.

None of their vaunted "stars" — Hagi, Lacatus or Balint — were a factor and hatchet man Bumbescu, who was supposed to mark van Basten out of the game was no match for the skilful striker, who topped all scorers in the 1988/89 Champions Cup with 10 goals.

AC Milan's breathtaking performance left me with the distinct feeling that one has to look no further than Holland and Italy for the favourites of the 1990 World Cup (no disrespect to the USSR, Brazil and Argentina intended).

I was particularly impressed by the behaviour of the huge Italian crowd which celebrated throughout the game with such good natured gusto, never once encroaching on the field à la Wembley Cup final, during or after the match.

One shudders to think how English supporters would have behaved in similar circumstances.

Commentator Martin Tyler contributed superbly to the magnificent SBS live telecast.

He is by far the best of the lot in England — well-informed and not in the slightest bit parochial as some of his BBC and ITV colleagues.

Chip off the old block: Paolo Maldini (left), the AC Milan left fullback, with his father, Cesare, the 1963 Milan libero. This is the first time a father and son combination has won the European Champions' Cup.

England-Poland live on SBS-TV

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SBS-TV at 11.30pm Sydney time this Saturday kick off their spectacular string of live World Cup qualifying matches under their promotional programme banner of "COUNTDOWN ITALIA '90"

"COUNTDOWN ITALIA '90" will embrace no less than eight telecasts brought into Australia live via satellite by SBS-TV for soccer lovers.

Six of these live telecasts will be direct from Europe, with another two being bounced in from South America.

This Saturday night, SBS kicks off 'Countdown Italia '90" from Wembley Stadium where England clashes with Poland, with exclusive commentary by the articulate Martin Tyler.

The network's "Mr Soccer", presenter Les Murray, told ASW last night:

"This will be the first time England has met Poland in a qualifier since that cold Wednesday night way back in 1973 at Wembley when Poland shocked the world by holding a star-studded England to a 1-1 draw .

"Soccer viewers will vividly remember Polish goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski's fabulous performance that evening.

"The amazingly agile giant Pole denied England entry into the World Cup finals in West Germany by pulling off at least six world-class saves off shots fired in by English strikers Martin Chivers and Rodney Marsh.

"Saturday night's game is a crunch-match for England as they are by no means sure of qualifying for Italy.

"A loss would be a national disaster for England and another setback for manager Bobby Robson.

"England recently displayed most unpromising form in a 0-0 draw with Chile, also at Wembley," Murray concluded.

Although they lead their Group with five points from two victories over Albania and a home draw against the Swedes, England after Saturday night still must play two away games against Sweden and Poland.

Poland already has lost to Sweden away, and another loss at Wembley may end Poland's hopes of qualifying.

Poland will be without their star-striker, Dariusz Dziekanowski, who was suspended for disciplinary reasons.

With Les Murray and Johnny Warren in the SBS studio will be former Socceroo striker Adrian ("Noddy") Alston and ex-England Youth goalkeeper Ron Tilsed.

June World Cup schedule

BY LOU GAUTIER

SIX World Cup qualifying matches are scheduled for Europe in June before the continent goes into its annual summer recess.

The two most important take place this weekend.

On Saturday, England meet Poland in Group 2 at Wembley in a match shown live by SBS Television.

For a preview, see John Economos' report, also on this page.

On Sunday, the Republic of Ireland, rejuvenated by its April 26 1-0 win over hitherto unbeaten Spain, take on a disappointing Hungary.

The Irish are well on the road to their first-ever appearance in the World Cup finals and have been on a high ever since their impressive showing in Euro-88.

If they win this, they will almost certainly clinch second place in their group, Spain being already assured of the top spot.

Hungary, who dropped a point at home to Eire, will find it difficult to break through against Jack Charlton's men.

To say that Hungarian football is not what it used to be would be the understatement of the decade. Like France it may take another generation for them to regain their past glory.

June 7 sees a "double-header" in Group 7 with Luxembourg "hosting" neighbours Belgium in Lille, France, because their only international class stadium is being renovated, and Switzerland meeting Czechoslovakia in Zurich.

Luxembourg will be lucky to escape a four to six-goal defeat against the group leaders.

The Swiss must win at all costs. They are three points adrift from second placed Czechoslovakia and Portugal.

A loss would virtually eliminate them at only the half-way mark.

The two remaining matches are set down for June 14.

In Group 5, Yugoslavia travel to Oslo for a match against Norway, and Iceland is at home to Austria.

Yugoslavia just need a point to book passage to Italy with Scotland.

In the unlikely event of the Yugoslavs reverting to their former unpredictibility, France would regain a glimmer of hope and so would the Norwegians, who accounted for Cyprus in Oslo two weeks ago for their second win.

Not enough has been seen of the Austrians to date in Group 3 to rate their chances one way or the other as they have played less games than any of their opponents.

Their 1-1 draw in Leipzig against East Germany was promising, though, even if the East Germans have been out of sorts for the past 18 months.

Iceland, at Reykjavik, are no push-overs for any team.

They held the powerful USSR to a 1-1 draw in the group opener at home last August, and they can match it with the best in front of their fans.

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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

Apia brains trust snapped at Lambert Park. At left is a pensive Craig Mason, having a vintage season with his new club, and at right long-time enthusiast and club president, Ron Orsatti. But who is sporting the broken nose? None other than club doctor and former Canterbury rugby league hooker, George Peponis!

NEIL Fuller could not bear to watch soccer from the sidelines so he pulled his boots back on.

That's not bad for a young player who two years ago lost the bottom of his right leg after complications set in following a leg break in a game.

Fuller, now 19, was among the most promising young players in SA when tragedy struck.

He was devastated but he has fought back and now has started playing again with amateur side Para Hills.

He also helps coach Federation side Para Hills' under 16 team and has a blossoming athletics career.

He won the high jump at the national disabled titles and took silver in the long jump. He also clocked 14.9 seconds for the 100m.

Fuller now must collect $2000 to represent Australia in September in the FESPIC Games in Japan.

He also would love to help organise soccer as a competitive sport for the disabled.

You can bet your sweet life that Sunshine's Mark Lennon will agree this was not one of his elegant moments, as Carmelo Bazzano snapped him in action.

STAND-IN Sydney Croatia coach Ron Corry has been prepared to take a few risks to pop up his low-scoring side in the absence of player-coach Vedran Rozic.

He was quick to say that Australian schoolboy international David Seale, recently signed on a contract by the club, would receive a first team run.

★★★

FROM the very moment Blacktown City lost Dominic Longo with an injury, their defence was in trouble.

Coach Les Scheinflug was not prepared to move until he was sure he had the right man.

Enter 23-year-old defender Pat McGeeney, on the recommendation of Avala coach Tony Henderson's brother in England.

McGeeney has been quietly training with the Demons . . . now will he do the job?

★★★

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MORE ground trouble in Sydney. The daily press shed crocodile tears over late advice by the NSW Federation that Second Division Dulwich Hill was using St George Stadium last Sunday.

But if anyone was to blame, it was not the NSW Federation and Dulwich Hill club.

The ground was hired and all their fixtures were set down before the beginning of the season.

There was a very recent hiring arrangement between St George and Sydney Olympic. What advance arrangements were made to take into account existing commitments?

★★★

ASW was sorry to hear that personable Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Rozic lost his brother, a physiotherapist with club Hajduk Split, as a result of a motoring accident.

He is back in Yugoslavia with the family.

His assistant coach, Ron Corry, will be in charge of the team while he is away.

Vedran Rozic

Corry, small of stature, was one of Australia's gamest goalkeepers, and turned out in 28 internationals. He came through the ranks in Canterbury district before rising to fame.

★★★

WHEN CRAIG JOHNSTON returned from Australia to Liverpool following the Hillsborough disaster, he took the opportunity to collect the 1987/88 League championship medal that was waiting there for him.

★★★

THERE will be plenty of Australian-Greek youngsters practising their soccer skills and tactics.

Chris Kalantzis, who went from Sydney Olympic to Panathinaikos for a $200,000 transfer fee, received $100,000 in *contract* money from the club a year earlier than was provided for.

★★★

TONY DAKOS will miss the game for Sydney Olympic against PAOK tonight (Wednesday), but congratulations to him on his marriage to Terry Patalis' sister.

Sydney Olympic president George Paschalis has been seeking to have either Greek-based Chris Kalantzis or Terry Patalis released by their clubs to guest for Olympic on the night.

★★★

NSW referees president Terry Seacy jetted to England on Friday, following the death of his father.

Whilst over there he will be looking to see if there are any refereeing sponsorship ideas that he can duplicate in NSW.

★★★

Sunshine George Cross received a $500 fine following their failure to provide enough police at the South Melbourne game at Chaplin Reserve on May 8.

The club also have to lodge a $5000 bond for the balance of the season.

They must provide at least eight police for remaining home games, provide match officials with security for themselves and their cars, and play any televised fixtures away from sub-standard Chaplin Reserve.

★★★

ADELAIDE City is to employ security guards, not white coat officials, to supervise its home NSL and State League matches until the end of the season.

City president Charlie Caruso announced the move after City player Steve Maxwell allegedly was struck by a fan in the Melbourne game against South Melbourne and a City white coat official reportedly struck a Salisbury player in a SA State League match.

DUTCH TULIP

Today's picture features Bartina Koeman. She is the wife of Dutch ace Ronald Koeman, the sweeper of PSV Eindhoven, who has just been transferred to Barcelona in a huge deal.

BERNARD Davis may have scored an Australian first in the recent Class 3 entrance examination for referees.

Davis, from Hillbank, is believed to be the first person in Australia to score 100 per cent.

A total of 13 candidates were successful in the course for beginner refs.

Leading the Wollongong Wolves out for the game against Sydney Croatia on May 7 is goalkeeper Warwick Young, a player whose father Bob Young played for Australia as a wing half in the fifties.

PHOTO: Hector Carrasco

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GREG RUSSELL REPORTS

Ambitious Gold Coast Gamblers are on a roll

FORMER West Adelaide National League defender Tim Brown has been added to the Gold Coast Gamblers squad, *which* is slowly gaining strength to underline that the region's NSL ambitions are gaining momentum.

Brown moved to Brisbane two months ago, but overlooked the local XXXX League sides to play with Kingscliff in the Coast competition, and therefore become available for Gamblers inclusion.

He was immediately spotted by Gamblers coach Jim Selby and drafted into the coast's squad for their tour of North Queensland last month.

"Tim has given us the extra height we needed when defending and also has the ability to go forward and score," Selby said.

TIM BROWN

Brown has been playing in the Gamblers midfield, but was switched in their last game to sweeper to cover for Queensland squad member, Raph Underwood, who was sidelined with a groin strain.

The Gamblers, who beat current XXXX League leaders North Star 4-2 to win last year's Ampol Cup final, then won this season's intercity series against Brisbane and Ipswich. They now have a formidable squad which would go close to being the closest to NSL standard of any team in Queensland.

In addition to Brown, the Gamblers have former New Zealand international Paul Halford and former Kiwi youth international Paul Denham, who were all included in the Queensland squad for the washed out interstate match with NSW.

Also a Gambers player is former Brisbane Lions NSL man Peter Dwyer, while the squad also includes Englishman Gary French, a former non-league player, who has stood out this year, largely due to his ability to strike accurate shots with both feet.

Gold Coast Soccer Federation President Tony Cecco admitted at the Gamblers *launch* earlier this year that the NSL was a definite target and only lack of funds was currently holding them back.

"We have the basis of a team which could compete in NSL. If we could get a big sponsor, we would definitely make a bid," he said.

JOHN OGDEN — longest serving Lions' player. Seen here last season against Apia's Peter Tredinnick.

Willowburn's birthday bash

TOOWOOMBA club, Willowburn, will celebrate its 40th anniversary at a special dinner on July 29.

The club, playing in the QSF's Second Division this season after promotion last year, also hopes to publish an anniversary booklet and is keen to obtain any old photos or memorabilia former members or supporters may have collected.

Willowburn, whose players travel hundreds of kilometres to Brisbane and home every second week to play, have won many friends in Division Two this year with their hospitality at home.

The anniversary dinner is tipped to be a similar social success.

Anyone interested in attending, or anyone who may have something for inclusion in the anniversary publication, is asked to contact club treasurer Mrs D.P. Rogers on (076) 381 344 or (076) 327 985, or club secretary Ian Patterson on (076) 327 433 or (076) 350 604.

The club's mailing address is P.O. Box 5070, Toowoomba, 4352.

Rangers renewing Playle's contract

FORMER Eastern Suburbs defender Scott Playle has had his contract renewed with Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers.

Playle, 19, returned home last week for an off-season break which will include his marriage to longtime sweetheart Fiona Leisegang.

The tough defender was snapped up by Rangers when he was sent to Glasgow on an Easts' sponsored scholarship scheme in 1987.

He has played the past two seasons in the club's reserve grade side and is still hopeful he can crack a first team berth despite the latest Graeme Souness player outlays.

"I'll just keep trying my best and maybe one day I'll make it into the firsts, although the club has been on a bit of a buying spree lately which won't make it easy," he said.

Easts, who retain Playle whenever he is in Australia, have held discussions with the defender on whether he is interested in playing in the XXXX League with the Tigers during his return.

But at this stage, Playle is still trying to recover from a stomach injury which has kept him sidelined since February.

"I tore some muscles. They have been slow to heal, but hopefully it's starting to come right now," he said.

Playle is one of three Queenslanders who have achieved success with European clubs.

Former Brisbane Lions goalkeeper Jason Kearton returned home for an off-season break last week after playing the past season with the Everton reserves and "A" team which won the Lancashire League. Former Redlands goalkeeper Alfie Lasen is the youth team goalkeeper with West German club VfB Stuttgart.

JOHN OGDEN TESTIMONIAL

ONE of Queensland soccer's most popular players, Brisbane Lions midfielder John Ogden, will be honoured with a testimonial dinner this month.

Ogden, 29, is one of the longest-serving players at Richlands, having started his football at Lions as a 15-year-old after switching from St Helen's.

The skilled attacking midfielder, who has been called on to fill a variety of roles over the years, has been a fixture in the Lions NSL team for nearly a decade.

His abilities have been repeatedly recognised in the representative arena, having been selected for Queensland 11 times.

Ogden's performance in the first half of Queensland's opening tour match against Fiji in 1985 has been rated by those who witnessed it as one of the midfielder's all-time great moments.

Playing on the left-hand side of the midfield, Ogden repeatedly tore apart the Fijians with skills that even had the locals cheering.

Eventually the Fijians resorted to crude tackling to take Ogden out of the match.

Ogden's testimonial dinner will be held at Richlands Stadium on Saturday June 9.

The dinner-dance is open to all Ogden's current and former team-mates and his many soccer friends.

Anyone wishing to attend can contact any Lions director for tickets.

QSF to close loopholes

THE Queensland Soccer Federation management committee could look to close a loophole which saw three XXXX League players "serve" their suspensions in washed out matches last weekend.

Under current QSF disciplinary rules, players are suspended to a date, rather than a specific number of matches.

If the games expected to be played in that time are washed out or called off, at the moment the suspended player "gets lucky".

Rain washed out all but one XXXX League fixture last weekend allowing Brisbane City's Frank Pimblett and Rochedale's Neville Godding and Brian MacNicol to complete their suspensions without losing a match.

Their good fortune produced further criticism of the recently besieged QSF disciplinary rules.

The spotlight was put on the rules a week ago when the rain-delayed XXXX pre-season final was played mid-week.

Lions midfielder Russell Stewart was cautioned, his second in pre-season matches, and subsequently was outed for the next fixture — which happened to be the all-important derby with Brisbane City.

QSF secretary Jim Gilbert conceded there seemed to be some "grey areas" in relation to the suspensions rules, but said much confusion centred around clubs and players not fully understanding the existing rules.

"If clubs believe the current rules are unfair or inconsistent, then we urge them to put their ideas in writing and in plenty of time for new notices of motion to be formulated to make the necessary constitutional changes at the end of the year," he said.

Did You Know?

— That the Kruger Cup was a trophy donated by the Kruger family to develop inter-city rivalry between Brisbane and Ipswich?

The series kicked off in 1946 and was abandoned in 1975.

Ipswich won 14 times, Brisbane 11.

Wash-out headache

THE Queensland Soccer Federation's wet weather headaches are continuing.

Washouts last week saw the tally of unplayed match grow to an amazing 165 games — the equivalent of two full rounds.

QSF secretary Jim Gilbert said the situation was the most difficult he had encountered in seven years since starting at Perry Park.

"This is worse than in 1974 when we had the big flood," Gilbert said.

"This year has been different from any before because the wet weather has just dragged on and on.

"Even now, with the winter coming on, some pitches are going to take considerable time to dry out and some probably will never recover."

The washouts are set to make Wednesday night football a fact of life for much of the remainder of the season.

With the Ampol Cup now under way and the lower division Qantas Cup to start within a month, there will be few weeks of the season remaining when some clubs will not have two matches a week.

"It's going to test everyone's depth."

VSF

FIRST DIVISION with Angelo Sticca

Juventus down St Albans in 1-0 thriller

IN one of the most exciting and skilful matches of the season, this top of the table clash saw Juventus score the winning goal in the 39th minute.

Charlie Egan's shot was not cleanly stopped by goalkeeper Vunderl and youngster Pat Giaccherini pounced on the ball to slot the rebound home.

The second half belonged to the St Albans side which was inspired by the presence of player-coach Branko Culina , who brought himself on.

The Juventus defence was inpenetrable throughout and with St Albans continually pressing for the equaliser, there was never a lull in play as both sides kept the large crowd on the edge of their seats.

JUVENTUS: Marrama, Belic, Della Rocca, de Amicis (Giandomenico), Patterson, Minichiello, Coady (Montemurro), Lane, Egan, Giaccherini.

ST ALBANS: Vunderl, Grgic, Dragovic, Kupersak, Bozic, Gagula (Culina), Colina, Kuzman, Eres, Pondeljak, Morovic, Babic.

MORWELL 1 POLONIA 2

Polonia won its second match of the season in controversial fashion after a Morwell goal was disallowed for an offence which neither the referee nor linesmen admitted to seeing.

Morwell took the lead in the fourth minute from a Warszawski shot but Polonia hit back through Lipiarski in the 33rd minute and Bonk made the score 2-1 for Polonia two minutes before half-time after converting a penalty for a foul on Belligrinos.

MORWELL: Reynolds, O'Donnell, Byrne, McBride, Bruns, Doyle, Nelson, Warzawski, Wright, Basara, Cassar.

POLONIA: Kostrzewa (D'Antonio), Lipiarski, Pichner, Flemming, Innes, Stevanovic, Atanosaski, Blichartz, Bonk, Belegrinos.

FAWKNER 0 BOX HILL 0

Box Hill and Fawkner fought out a tough match which was marred by many physical clashes.

Box Hill was dealt a blow when dour defender Paddy Cooper was sent off for a questionable foul on Fawkner's O'Dell, who was later booked for tough play.

The game as a whole was not an attractive one as both sides tried to overcome the respective defences, which held firm throughout.

Box Hill came close with a powerful drive from McArthur which smashed against the post while Fawkner also had some chances to put the ball in the net.

FAWKNER: Terzini, Cosentino, Schipano, Petricca, Soummelidis, Ferla, Sabbatino, Raines, Ferrer, Campbell.

BOX HILL: McKinlay, McPhee (Macleod),Thomas (sent off), Davidson, Egan (Lavell), Dimitritis, Hanley, McArthur, McAleer, Kennedy.

SPRINGVALE 0 BULLEEN 1

Bulleen won its first game in five weeks by defeating the bottom side in the league.

After a fairly even first half in which both sides had chances, it was Bulleen which began to dominate in the second period.

The turning point was the substitution which brought veteran Andy Bozikas onto the pitch during the second half.

It was Bozikas who scored the deciding goal when a Bulleen counter-attack allowed Lujic to cross the ball for Bozikas to head home.

Bulleen's injury woes continue with the news that Fab Incantalupo will be out for six weeks and both Livingstone and Avian will also be missing this weekend.

English import Lee O'Keefe arrives on Saturday and should prove a valuable addition to the Bulleen side.

SPRINGVALE: Brian, Rolleman, Bryden, Adams, Bissinger, Reilly, Findlay, Fourna, Livingstone, S Keenan, Webster.

BULLEEN: Roccioletti, Marson, Trogiric, Curulli, Krajacic, Antanasovski, Dal Ben (Bozikas), Angele, Milosevic, Ruccia, Lujic.

NORTHCOTE CITY 0 CROYDON CITY 1

Croydon City moved into second position after a goal by player-coach Ian Dobson saw it to victory over Northcote City.

Croydon should have put the issue beyond doubt in the first 20 minutes after creating a number of good chances.

Northcote got back into the match during the second half and it was only the strong Croydon defence which prevented the Northcote front-runners from penetrating the Croydon goal.

Dobson is happy with the form of his team but would like to strengthen the midfield to cover for injuries to key players in the smallish Croydon squad.

NORTHCOTE: Turudia, Harris, Kouremenos, Constantinou, Palmaricciotti, Ashburn, Tsangas, Woodall, Lazengas, Thodis, Patiniotis.

CROYDON: Runje, Langsbury, McIntosh, Dobson, Gabrielson, Brown, Roodhouse, G Runje, Van Egmond, Scott (Quigley), Humble.

THOMASTOWN 0 ALTONA GATE 0

Altona, who had just come off a hiding the previous week, played much better and should have got both points after missing a number of chances.

For Thomastown, the draw was its third in a row, and if it is to remain in contention for a top four berth it must start winning more matches.

THOMASTOWN: Janiakievski, De Propertis, Mihos, Hennessey, Mihalidis, Athersych, Carfora, Cristaldo, Ragusa, Di Martino, Sinclair.

ALTONA GATE: Lee, Illioski, Marmorovski, Markovski, Gagic, Tortevski, Kebakoski, Micevski, Todorovski, McMullen, Ristovski.

RINGWOOD CITY 0 GREEN GULLY 3

Green Gully continued its mid-season return to form with a fairly comprehensive victory over struggling Ringwood City.

In an encounter which was evenly placed during the first half it was a goal right on half-time, scored by Daley, which seemingly killed Ringwood's spirit.

The issue was put beyond doubt in the first minute of the second half when John Metaxas scored.

The final goal came in the 75th minute when New Zealand import Kevin Harrison notched his third of the season.

RINGWOOD: Blackley, Haupt, Nolan, Cummings, Verniers, McGuigan (Wall 40th), Muir, Maguire, Cocker, Wemyss, Corvan.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Hogben, McMillan, Metaxas, Cutler, Checcuti, Wilson, Harrison, Pender, Bailey, Smart.

High scoring Caulfield City forward Con Pappas (white shirt) no doubt had a few well chosen words for St Albans' Velimir Kupresak as he is about to hit the deck in the goalmouth. St Albans secured an upset win. ***PIC: CARMELO BAZAANO.***

CAULFIELD CITY 0 FRANKSTON 0

Frankston Pines produced a good game to hold Caulfield City to its second successive scoreless draw.

In a hard and tough game, both sides had an even amount of chances to get on the scoreboard but both defences and 'keepers saw to it that the ball stayed out of their respective goals.

Tibor Drinoczky had to be taken to hospital after suffering concussion.

FRANKSTON PINES: Davies, Macleod, Ferris, Watson, Drinoczky (Lipscombe), Weir, McDonagh, Ptst, Stirton, Dick, Miller.

CAULFIELD CITY: Madjer, Bitsonis, Kountouris, Pattore, Filipoli, Theoharous, Drakeford, Pappas, Aretis, Deligiannis, Dimovski.

NSL Selections

I enjoy your paper very much. My forecasts for the end of the season are: 1. Marconi, 2. St George, 3. Sydney Croatia, 4. Preston, 5. Sth Melbourne, 6. Apia, 7. Sydney Olympic, 8. Melbourne Croatia, 9 Wollongong, 10. Adelaide City, 11 Melbourne JUST, 12 Sunshine, 13. Blacktown, 14. Heidelberg.

STEVE KAZMER
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Victorian State League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brunswick Juv	13	8	4	1	24	8	20
Croydon City	13	7	4	2	17	5	18
St Albans	13	7	3	3	14	7	17
Morwell Falcons	13	7	3	3	18	10	17
Caulfield City	13	7	3	3	20	14	17
Altona Gate	13	6	4	3	19	15	16
Green Gully	13	6	1	6	19	14	14
Northcote City	13	5	3	5	17	15	13
Thomastown	13	4	5	4	11	13	13
Box Hill	13	3	6	4	14	15	12
Bulleen	13	5	2	6	14	19	12
Fawkner	13	3	4	6	8	14	10
Ringwood City	13	2	6	5	11	19	10
Frankston Pines	13	3	4	6	11	20	10
Polonia	13	2	2	9	8	26	6
Springvale City	13	0	4	9	5	16	4

Results

JUVENTUS 1 (Giaccherini) SAINT ALBANS 0, NORTHCOTE CITY 0 CROYDON CITY 1 (Dobson), MORWELL FALCONS 1 (Warzawski) POLONIA 2 (Bonk, Lipiarski), CAULFIELD CITY 0 FRANKSTON PINES 0, ALTONA GATE 0 THOMASTOWN 0, FAWKNER 0 BOX HILL 0, BULLEEN 1 (Bozikas) SPRINGVALE CITY 0, RINGWOOD CITY 0 GREEN GULLY 3 (Harrison, Daley, Metaxas).

Top Scorers

8: Pappas (CAUL), 7: Basara (MF), Egan (JUVE), Woodall (NC), McMullen (Alt), 6: Morovic (ST ALB), 5: Humble (CROY) Incantalupo (BULL), 4: Carfora (THOM), Gagula (ST ALB), Bonk (POL), 3: Bozikas (BULL), Daley (GG), Warszawski (MF), Athersych (THOM), Davie (RING), Deligiannis, Drakeford (CAUL), Emmanuele, Hanna (FAWK), Herd (JUVE), McAleer (BH), McBride (MF), Sokoluk (CAUL), Nelson (POL), Scott (CROY), Tsangas (NORTH), Watson (FP).

THIS WEEK'S GAMES:
Saturday Brunswick Juventus v Northcote City, Bulleen v St Albans, Frankston Pines v Morwell Falcons.
Sunday Thomastown v Fawkner, Box Hill v Springvale City, Green Gully v Altona Gate, Croydon City v Caulfield City, Polonia v Ringwood City.

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ALAN CLARK REVIEWS
The Soccer Scene in . . .
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SECOND Division promotion challenger Seaford has drawn the 'plum' PGH Federation Cup tie away to boom side Polonia.

Defenders Croatia travel to play Noarlunga, Second Division neighbor of Seaford.

PGH Federation Cup draw: Noarlunga v Croatia, Hellas v Eliz Vale, CBC Old Collegians v Enfield, Birkalla v Omonia, Para Hills v Asteras, Polonia v Seaford, Eliz City v Apac, Modbury v Salisbury Utd.

President's Cup: Azzurri v Birkalla Seaford v Croatia, Eliz City v Port, Campbelltown v Omonia, Cumberland v Adelaide City, Asteres v Beograd, Polonia v Noarlunga, Hellas v Salisbury.

Bailetti Cup: Beograd v Blackwood, Croatia v AdCity, Polonia v Eliz City, Para v Cumberland, Enfield v Birkalla, USC Lion v Cambpelltown, Hellas v Modbury, Azzurri v Salisbury.

Ties to be played on Monday, June 12.

★★★

USC Lion chairman Steve Meus has killed speculation that the coaching positions of Alex McKinnell and Mario Danielli at Grange were under immediate threat.

"After our fine start, we have had a spate of bad results and that caused us to assess the position of players, coaches and committee," said Meus.

"But USC Lion has a tradition of supporting coaches and we are sure any move in that direction at this time would be counter-productive.

★★★

SA has appointed highly promising Roy Jones as its referee representative for the national youth titles.

They will be played in Canberra from June 26 to July 1.

★★★

USC Lion-Grange coach Alex McKinnell has his side involved in 'unarmed combat' at training to bring aggression back into its play.

"We have no stars here but our early season success was built on hard work," said McKinnell. "That has gone a bit but at training we have a few new methods to try to get some aggression back in our play."

★★★

The penalty went to Adelaide City! Melbourne JUST's Tom Karic (left) and Gary van Egmond survey the scene in Adelaide on March 26. Joe Mullen's penalty won the game 1-0 for Adcity. Photo: JANUSZ KAMMA.

Hellas threat

TITLE holder Croatia's defence of its crown comes under threat on Saturday against Hellas at Hindmarsh.

Croatia, though, is in impressive form.

Excellent import Mladen Putanec played stylishly on Saturday as Croatia held high-flying Azzurri to a goalless draw.

His midfield duel with Alby Kidd should be a highlight and Croatia may surprise by securing a point.

Jack Braidwood got off to a glorious start as coach of Para Hills by lifting them off the bottom of the table. They beat Campbelltown 3-0 with goals from Crook and brothers Neil and David Edwards sending Joh Perin's side to the foot of the table.

Para this week could further boost its position against Adelaide City which succumbed on Saturday to Polonia goals from Timar, Weiczorek and Karpinski.

Campbelltown is unlikely to get any respite against Modbury who are coached by former Red Devil player Steve Amos.

Modbury though will be missing Bryan Edwards who was sent off on Saturday against Salisbury. Salisbury themselves will be without Tony Gasperetto, also sent off in the 1-1 draw against Modbury.

Salisbury though should be too strong for Lion which went down 4-0 to Birkalla Eagles.

Two goals by Ted Briscoe made him the league's top scorer and he will be the danger against Port.

Polonia looks Hellas' main challenger for the title but they will struggle to overcome Azzurri so expertly led by coach Jan Kierno.

Beograd last week crushed Apac 4-1 to take a commanding lead in the Second Division. Cumberland like Beograd, relegated last year, moved into second spot with a 2-1 win against Norlunga whom Beograd play this week.

ADELAIDE WHISPERS

POLONIA got a player boost for the State Soccer League clash against Adelaide City.

Star defender Damien Harley, who celebrated his 21st birthday on May 9, played his 100th game for the club.

And Polonia welcomed back ace midfielder David Doorne from injury.

Doorne damaged an ankle against Birkalla and then missed training after the tragic death of a close friend.

PJ Sanderson has made a comeback after troublesome shins kept him out of action for more than a month.

Polonia, meanwhile, collected an admirable $280 from collections and donations for the Hillsborough Disaster Appeal.

★★★

HELLAS has refused a request for promising young striker Theo Anastasiou to train with rival State League club Campbelltown.

Hellas president Michael Aronis said Anastasiou was on contract until the end of the season and must honor that.

★★★

ADELAIDE Croatia import Mladen Putanec hopes he can put his new side in the NSL.

The 24-year-old midfielder, who represented his country more than 30 times at youth level, has flown in from Yugoslav Second Division team NK Zagreb.

He cost Croatia $6500 and is keen to repay that fee.

★★★

FORMER Socceroo goalkeeper Martyn Crook has quit as coach of struggling First Division side Para Hills.

His place has been taken by former Croatia, Whyalla Croatia and Lion coach Jack Braidwood.

Crock will stay as goalkeeper of Para.

★★★

THE Adelaide Celtic amateur soccer League club had a special way to celebrate their Scottish heroes' Cup success.

A group of 50 travelled to Strathalbyn to help mark the township's 150th anniversary as a Scottish settlement in SA and played two matches.

Afterwards the Flower of Scotland never sounded so good.

★★★

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I have heard of scenes at particular events, and one most recently at an international soccer match held here in Australia, where large numbers of people were locked outside the ground and a nasty scene could well have occurred."

Brusasco was on his feet at question time to set the record straight.

"There was never any danger to spectators at the international game between Australia and Israel at the Sydney Football Stadium," he said. "The large crowd of more than 40,000 was well controlled, and the sensible decision of the trustees to open the members' section of the ground to spectators waiting to get in averted any problems which might have arisen."

Sharp said afterwards that he believed there should be an investigation by all governments, state and federal, into crowd control and safety standards at major sporting venues.

Last-gasp win to PAOK

BY ALAN CLARK

AN injury-time goal by substitute Efstathios Voutsias gave Greek First Division tourists PAOK an opening 2-1 win last Sunday against Adelaide Hellas at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The bustling striker netted from close range to give PAOK the special challenge cup on offer in a Greek gala day.

But Hellas held their heads high.

In the second half, especially, the State League side made things hot for the cool, stylish visitors.

Colin Miller's up at 'em approach largely was responsible for shaking the high-credentialled visitors out of their rhythm.

He had come on as a 17th minute sub for injured Hellas skipper Alby Kidd.

PAOK had opened impressively with midfielders Konstandinos Lagonidis and Nikolas Karageorgiou the prize pick in front of two strong central defenders in Ioannis Tsiplakis and Konstandinos Malioufas.

Lagonidis gave PAOK the lead in just five minutes when he butted home a header after enterprising lead-up work by former Young Socceroo John Anastasiadis.

PAOK, even without Charlie Yankos, Michael Small, Brazilian Fernando and Norwegian striker Osvold, who did not make the trip, looked cool and accomplished in their black strips which forced the referee and linesmen to don contrasting blue tops.

Anastasiadis set up another chance in just 10 minutes but Skartados' solid shot hit the post.

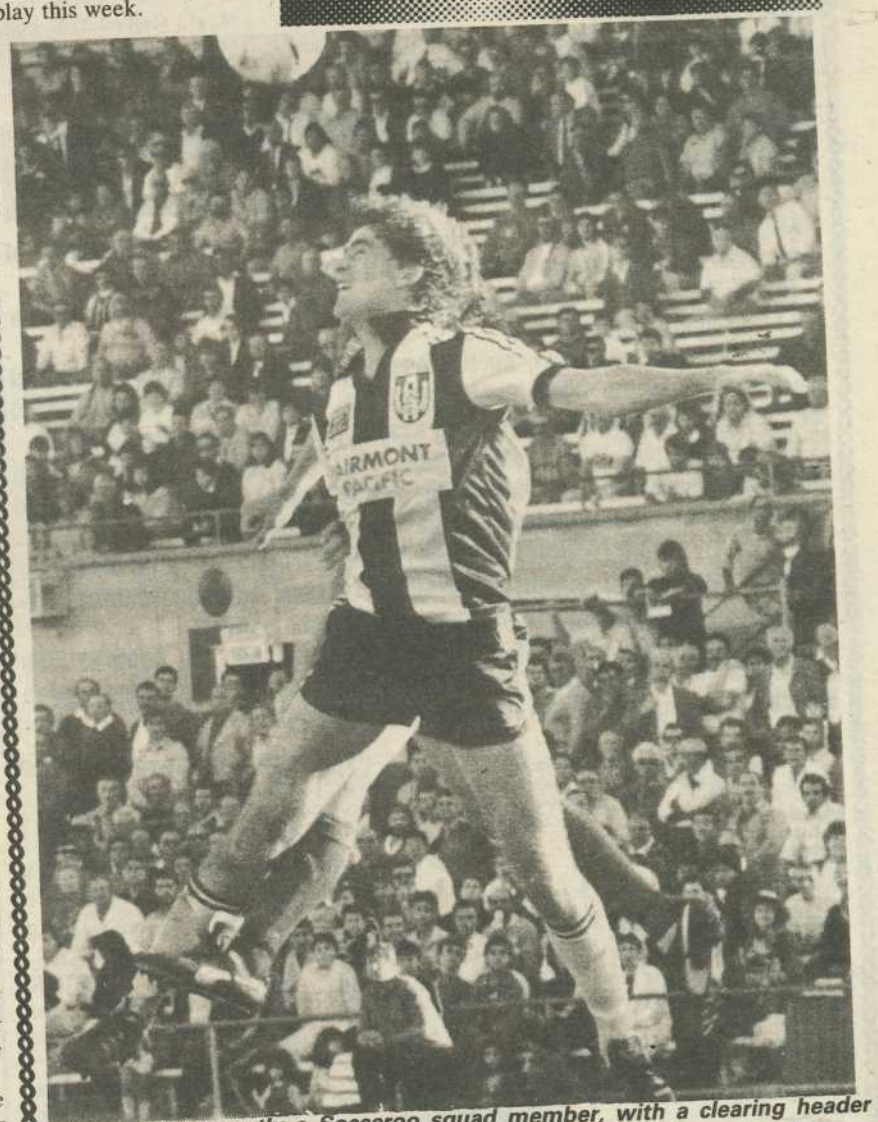
Hellas, though, were no idle passengers. Youth Socceroo Mark Brazzale saw two chances missed.

PAOK, who arrived in SA just the day before the game, seemed to run out of legs and ideas in the second half as Hellas pushed them back into defence.

When substitute goalkeeper Agiropoulos dropped a Brazzale corner onto grounded Brenton Hiern's head for the equaliser in the 63th minute, Hellas looked capable of forcing the game into a penalty shoot-out.

But then up popped Voutsias for his killer touch right at the death...

Hellas still had time to mount another attack and Colin Miller had the ball in the net but referee Jim Rossis disallowed the score for offside.



Alex Tobin, recently a Socceroo squad member, with a clearing header for Adelaide City against Sydney Croatia in Adelaide on May 14. P.S. The two extra legs belong to an unidentifiable opponent! — PIC: JANUSZ KAMMA.

NORTHERN NSW

News and Views

FROM DAVE WILLIAMS

Craig Johnston to be patron of the NNSW Federation

AUSTRALIA'S best-known soccer player, Craig Johnston, has joined the Northern NSW Federation.

Not as a player, or an administrator, but as a patron.

Craig, the Lake Macquarie boy who won the hearts of Middlesborough — and later — Liverpool fans before returning to his home town for good earlier this year, readily accepted the invitation offered to him.

He said that the Federation had been good to him and that he would be pleased to give something in return.

Craig joins the Mayor of Lake Macquarie City and State Member for Swansea, Alderman Ivan Welsh, and the Member for Charlestown, Mr Richard Face, as the Federation's three patrons.

Ivan Welsh accepted his position as a patron to fill the vacancy left by the death last year of former State Treasurer Ken Booth.

Richard Face has been a valued patron of the Federation for a decade.

Azzurri coaching crisis

THE departure last week of Richard Hartley as coach of Highfields Azzurri was a matter of some conjuncture.

An official of the club said that Hartley had been asked to resign.

But Hartley was quoted in a newspaper report as having said that he was "sacked".

He said, according to the report, that he had received a hand-delivered letter advising him that the committee had decided to "terminate his services".

Azzurri president John Rufo, quoted in the same press report, stated that the committee's decision had nothing to do with Hartley's coaching of the team, but that he (Hartley) had "tended" to tell the committee how to run the club" — a statement that Hartley denied.

Meanwhile, midfielder and former international Joe Senkalski has taken over as caretaker coach with instant success.

Azzurri scored a 1-0 win over the Stockton Sharks at Stockton last Saturday.

Robert Holden, recently transferred from Newcastle Austral, scored the goal that netted Azzurri three points in first-half injury-time.

Paul Walsh helps out

PAUL Walsh is a lecturer in business studies at the University of Newcastle as well as a consultant to the Northern NSW Federation.

In his capacity as a consultant, Walsh developed the programmes for the Federation's computers.

For several months past, he has been lecturing on loan to students at the University of the South Pacific, in Suva, where he has made contact with the secretary of the Fiji Football Association (FFA), Jitendra Maharaj.

Paul took with him a programme that included a record of the Australia-Fiji World Cup elimination match which Australia won 5-1 in Newcastle on December 3 last year, to show to FFA officials.

The FFA is considering adopting the programme, which has four modules that record player registrations, player judiciary records, fixtures planning and the day to day running of league football.

N doubt, Paul's experience as a solid defender with the Belmont club for several seasons assisted in his development of the programme, which has also been of value to the Australian Soccer Federation.

STATE FIRST DIVISION
FIRST GRADE

Adamstown Rosebud	4	4	0	0	10	2	12
Weston Workers Bears	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
West Wallsend	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
Highfields Azzurri	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Cessnock City	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Stockton	5	1	1	3	3	7	4
Cardiff	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Belmont-Swansea Utd	5	1	0	4	4	8	3
Lake Macquarie City	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Wallsend	4	1	0	3	2	10	3

RESERVE GRADE

Belmont-Swansea Utd	5	3	1	1	5	3	10
Adamstown Rosebud	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Lake Macquarie City	4	2	2	0	7	4	8
Wallsend	4	2	1	1	8	6	7
West Wallsend	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
Weston Workers Bears	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Stockton	5	1	1	3	8	14	4
Highfields Azzurri	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Cessnock City	4	0	1	3	3	9	1
Cardiff	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

UNDER 18

Belmont-Swansea Utd	5	3	2	0	7	3	11
Adamstown Rosebud	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Highfields Azzurri	2	2	0	0	11	1	6
Weston Workers Bears	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
West Wallsend	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Lake Macquarie City	4	1	2	1	2	3	5
Stockton	5	1	1	3	6	13	4
Wallsend	4	0	2	2	4	13	2
Cardiff	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Cessnock City	4	0	1	3	4	8	1

JUNIOR CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed.
Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

Joeys warm up in Newcastle

BY DAVE WILLIAMS

VIC Dalgleish, coach of the Australian team that will contest the finals of the 1989 FIFA under 16 World Cup, has prepared three match plans for his squad.

The Australians, who went into camp at Sydney's Parklea complex last weekend, will leave on June 2 and spend five days in training in Holland before flying to Scotland, where the finals will be held between June 10 and 24.

While in Newcastle last Sunday with his squad for a trial run against a composite Highfields Azzurri under 16 and under 18 selection, Dalgleish described the task ahead in Scotland simply as "tough".

FOOTNOTE: Because of the soaked condition of the ground at Whitebridge, Sunday's match between the national under 16 team and the Azzurri selection was transferred to Dudley-Redhead, where the Australian team won 3-1 after leading 2-0 at halftime.

U16 SCOTLAND '89

Simon Brandt is on the way back. Two years ago he suffered a severe knee injury, and the knee required reconstruction.
He has played for both Newcastle Rosebud and Sydney Olympic in the NSL, and with his determination looked certain to go places.
Already he is back in the Newcastle Austral reserve team. He will be a tremendous asset when he regains his touch.

PRIMO SMALLGOODS FAIR PLAY CUP
TABLE
W/ENDING 21.5.89

	PL	YC	RED	NO. OF PLAYERS	PENALTY POINTS
1. Marconi	20	12	0	9	48
2. South Melbourne	20	15	0	10	64
3. Heidelberg Utd	19	18	0	23	86
4. Sydney Croatia	18	26	0	11	88
5. Adelaide City	20	20	0	11	93
6. St George	16	21	0	13	96
7. Melbourne Croatia	19	25	2	12	110
8. Melb. City JUST	18	26	4	12	115
9. Preston Makedonia	18	19	4	10	115
10. Sunshine GC	20	24	4	13	125
11. Sydney Olympic	19	27	1	13	126
12. Wollongong City	18	27	3	12	129
13. Blacktown City	15	29	1	11	136
14. APIA Leichhardt	18	29	5	12	142

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The fast tempo of the first half took its toll on both teams and the second period was played at a snail's pace and the meagre crowd was treated to a comedy of errors as passes went astray time after after time.

Apia had the better of play, but had nothing to show for their territorial domination.

Kevin Hagan was presented with the best chance of the second half, but managed to blast his shot from six metres out way over the bar.

A draw was perhaps a fair result, but Blacktown benefitted most of the point gleaned.

Having played four less games than their fellow-relegation candidates, their future may be a bit more secure as a result of the draw at Lambert Park.

Apia's play-off spot is now very much in doubt, but they should be stronger when Pedro Ricoy and Bruce Halliday, both of whom were sadly missed last Sunday, are back on deck.

The one encouraging aspect of an otherwise eminently forgettable afternoon was the presence of so many young players just out of their teens on the field at the same time.

APIA: Pezzano, M Brown, Ellem (Webber HT), O'Connor, Radosavljevic, Mason, Bundalo, Hagan, R Brown, Kosmina, Blagojevic (Murray 57).
BLACKTOWN: Watson, Bennett, G Sterrey, McGeeney (Welch 30, Jee 82), Northam, Odzarkov, Naumov, Maier, Gibson, Arambasic, van Blerk.
Referee: R Marshall. Crowd: 1009.

Business to support Manly Warringah

BUSINESSES in the Manly Warringah area are taking note of the resurgence of Manly Warringah Soccer Club.

Local drinks company Deans Juice & Co are leading the way by sponsoring the State League team, which is playing extremely well.

The side contains mainly young players who have developed through the ranks of the Manly Warringah junior representative squads.

The best young players on the North Shore who make up the squads have attracted sponsorship from Brookvale Steel Fabricators Pty Ltd, Dallas Smith Quality Carpets (Mona Vale) and Sun Air Conditioning.

The Cromer Park clubhouse is being uplifted with new carpets, painting and the introduction of Sky Channel.

New ground signs have been snapped up this season by Dee Why Smash Repairs, Cafe Prezzies, Rocco Crea Concrete, Bernard Shoes, Hardware & General Stores and Jetsroad.

Details of ground signs and sponsorship packages can be obtained from Sportsforce International, PO Box 1011, Chatswood 2057. Telephone 410 9819.

The ground is playing host to the inaugural MW Industry Fair on September 15/16/17, which is being sponsored by the Manly Daily and the State Bank.

World Cup 1990 Special

World Cup gold pen. $9 each + $2 P&P.

Graciously designed gold pen, displaying soccer ball, World Cup 1990 and Italian flag. This pen is privately commissioned for Australia only. This pen will become a world soccer collectors' item, order now.

Send to: PJJ Imports & Marketing, 30 Galvin Rd, Llandilo-NSW-2760

Please send me ..... World Cup gold pen (s).

Enclosed is my cheque/money order $.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....

Address.....

Town/suburb.....Postcode.....

If not delighted, you may return the above purchases within 7 days for a full refund.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER JERSEYS

We apologise to customers for having missed "Cappe Sports" from last week's advertisement for a whole range of international jerseys.

For those who did not telephone us for contact details, the advertisement is included in full on page 2.

The Editor

THERE is no doubt that the Australian soccer follower is receiving an unexcelled diet of overseas football.

The UEFA Cup final, European Cup-Winner's Cup final, the European Champions'Cup final and the European championship are but highlights of the programmes.

Special World Cup games are coming in direct and are supplemented by items drawn from the major leagues of Europe and South America.

Not to mention the popularity of the English Football League matches, with the FA and Scottish Cup finals as standard fare, together with the recent Arsenal-Liverpool game to provide an exciting decider.

The high-rating commercial Nine network, after missing out on securing an overall rugby league coverage, second-thought its position recently and offered SBS-TV $9 million for its World Cup cover. The offer of course was not accepted.

With great respect to SBS — and the ABC which dallied and lost out — if the World Cup is to start to really mean anything to the average Australian sports follower then commercial television cover will become vital somewhere down the track.

Australian soccer has continually been inclined to preach to the converted but means must be found to reach the uninitiated.

Despite the fine cover coming on the World Cup on SBS and the greatly improved ABC televising of National League matches, it is appropriate to have a close look at the real politics of Australian soccer.

Bringing overseas soccer live to Australian living rooms is one thing — building a visible and long-lasting soccer infrastructure is another.

Despite the work that has been done at Australian, state, National League and all the other levels of the game, the fact is that the surface has been hardly scratched.

Australian playing standards have improved since the National League began in 1977, but those who were there at the start surely anticipated that much more would have come.

Thirteen years down the road there are few worthwhile grounds in Sydney or Melbourne. Major arenas in other cities have been completely lost.

The states in some cases are reforming their leagues but at least one backed off making the agreed improvements.

Some states made vital country progress, but do they know how to maintain it in the light of counter-attacks from other sports?

One state remains divided, and so the list goes on.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY does not berate those enthusiasts who have put wholehearted and well-directed efforts into improving the game.

The commissioners must provide far-sighted direction and the ASF executive must back them up.

Last week reference was made to the need to stabilise and monitor the finances of all NSL clubs,and a system laid down for this to be properly handled.

Whether the NSL leaders take up the point remains to be seen. Whether they do or not, there will be no genuine progress until they or their successors do.

When it comes to regularising the finances of ALL clubs and the imposing of salary limits, here are some of the factors to be considered.

TUFARA VISIT

TOURING Italian side Tufara will be guaranteed a prince's welcome to SA in August.

The Italians, from a small industrial town about 70 kilometres from Naples, are returning a visit to Italy at Easter last year by a combined Adelaide City, Campbelltown and Azzurri side.

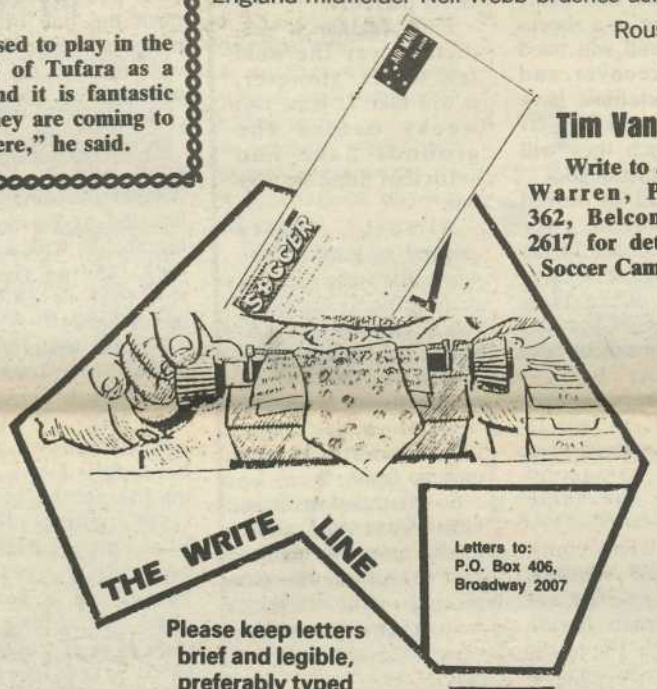
City backer Gordon Pickard financially is largely behind the return trip after being mightily impressed by the visit to Italy.

Tufara is likely to play in a two-week tournament against junior sides from City, Azzurri and Campbelltown.

Backing the visit is former City stalwart and proprietor of the Oberdan Convention Centre at Findon, Amerigo 'Curley' Fantasia.

"I used to play in the streets of Tufara as a boy and it is fantastic that they are coming to play here," he said.

England midfielder Neil Webb brushes aside Chile's Raul Ormena as the pair race for the ball during the Rous Cup match at Wembley.



Tim Van Dalen

Write to Johnny Warren, P.O. Box 362, Belconnen ACT 2617 for details of his Soccer Camp. — Ed.

Please keep letters brief and legible, preferably typed

PLAYER AVAILABLE

I am currently playing for one of the top League of Ireland sides after returning from playing four years in the English League.

I played for Manchester City for three years and Huddersfield Town for one year, making a number of first team appearances. I am still only 21 years old.

I would be very interested in joining a club in Australia in the National or State Leagues. I am available immediately.

My address in Ireland is: 13, Ferrycarrig Road, Coolock, Dublin 13.

My phone number is Dublin (01) 471481.

Alternatively, a number of player clippings and programmes featuring my career are available from a friend of mine in Sydney; Derek O'Neill, 7/48, Ben Boyd, Rd, Neutral Bay 2089, Sydney NSW (922 2260).

John Clarke

COACH/ PLAYER

A UK professional migrating to Australia later this year seeks a coaching/playing opportunity.

John Sharpe has a FA preliminary coaching badge and has made over 200 league appearances for Southampton and Gillingham in the First and Third Divisions respectively.

He has gained valuable experience under the tuition and guidance of managers such as Lawrie McMenemy, John Bond and Keith Peacock, and is currently organising a Summer Coaching School for 8-14 year olds.

John is 31, married with two young children and although sponsored by relatives in Cairns, will consider opportunities anywhere in Australia.

Initial contact can be made by phone or letter to the writer, when further details will be provided.

G.B. Goodere, 13g, 3 Darling Point Rd, Darling Pt NSW 2027

IRISH COACH

I am currently coaching at one of the top League of Ireland sides, Shamrock Rovers.

I hold a full English FA coaching license and I am senior assistant to the National Director of coaching in Ireland.

I have extensive experience and success coaching teams, including the Irish junior national team which I was in charge of for a few years.

I would be very keen on joining a club in Australia in either the National or State League.

I am available immediately.

My address in Ireland is: 50, Roseglen Road, Raheny, Dublin 5.

My phone number is Dublin (01) 318331.

A number of photocopies of coaching certificates and resumes detailing my career so far are also available from Derek O'Neill, 7/48, Ben Boyd Road, Neutral Bay 2089. Sydney NSW (922 2260).

I look forward to hearing from a club soon.

Paddy Gallagher

Young achievers' handsome prize

THE newly established Channel 10 "Young Achiever Awards" contain a sports section, and are now open to players, referees and officials involved in soccer in NSW.

The award has already been established in Western Australia and South Australia in some categories.

Seven prizes of $5000 State Saver Accounts from State Bank, a magnificent trophy and a first-class trip for two on Ansett staying at Hilton Hotels for up to seven nights are the prizes in the Channel 10 Young Achiever Awards 1989.

Nominations are being sought for young achievers in NSW under the age of 26.

Categories are: Bridgestone Arts Award, MBF Sports Award, FAI Career Achievement, Electricity Commission Technology & Science Award, Westfield Community Service Award, and Australian Wheat Board Rural and Development Award, plus the Channel 10 Young Achiever of the Year Award.

Applications are to be made on the official form and accompanied by a written explanation of up to 1000 words outlining the achievement or contribution made by the achiever.

Nomination forms are available from any of the companies involved or by calling (02) 869 1155 or you may write to Young Achiever Awards, P.O. Box 749, Epping, NSW 2121. Nominations close on Friday July 28, 1989.

Those selected as finalists may be required to attend an interview with the judging panel and should be available to attend the final presentation at the Hilton International Sydney on August 24, 1989.

State Manager, Miss Peggie Rodriquez, said "The awards are a recognition of the valuable contribution and tremendous achievements of our youth.

"We must recognise our young achievers now", she said, "as they are our country's future leaders. It is the community recognition and a financial reward which will enable a continued quality performance and encouragement," Miss Rodriquez further stated.

It is up to those who believe they have the necessary credentials to personally make their own nominations.

There is also provision for another person to make the nomination.

***

WELL-KNOWN physiotherapist SPENCER THORPE conducts business in well-appointed rooms under the stands at the Marconi Stadium.

He attends to general health matters as well as footballers and sportspersons.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

(By Alistair Russell)

Suman sparks Demons

BLACKTOWN'S hot striker Stan Suman was again on target last weekend when his two goals helped the Demons down Apia 3-0 at Lambert Park while in the only other match, Adamstown and St George drew 0-0.

Blacktown 3 Apia 0

The Lambert Parkers were in desperate need for both points at home last Sunday to keep in touch with the top four but the Demons' three goals in 13 minutes ruined their hopes.

The first 45 minutes was a dour midfield struggle with neither side creating any clear chances although Apia's Frank Mikuletic was called on to save a penalty after Peter Murray fouled in the 35th minute.

Blacktown moved up a gear in the second half and, as the game wore on, took control.

Suman took advantage of a poor clearance in the 59th minute to round the 'keeper and plant the ball home for Blacktown's opener. He set up Rogers in the 69th minute after intercepting a pass, then netted the third three minutes later in a flurry around the Apia goal.

APIA: Mikuletic, Lahanas, Pettenon, Reda, Gregson, Ruprerto, Karavatakis (Licastro), Pisano, Franze, Murray (Restaino), Bard.

Adamstown 0 St George 0

Adamstown gained its first point in four months after fighting out a 0-0 draw with the Saints last Sunday.

The match was riddled with errors and the Rosebuds' only chances came from breakaways. But, St George 'keeper Mario Saia pushed both chances wide, while at the other end the Saints were a little more constructive in their build ups.

ADAMSTOWN: Symes, Casserly, A Hudson, Jonas, Wilson, Ortega, Orton, C Hudson, Gilady (Roberts), Minter, Adams.

ST GEORGE: Saia, Goldstein, Esposito, Harmat, Sotiriou, Hagarli, McGregor, Dimoudis (Mora), Kakakios, Petridis, Corica (Hickman).

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

THIS WEEK'S MATCHES

Sat June 3: Adamstown v Olympic at Adamstown Oval 1.15pm, AIS v Wollongong at Bruce Stadium 3.00pm. Sun June 4: Croatia v Adamstown at Croatian Sports Centre 12.15pm, St George v Apia at St George Stadium 12.15pm, Blacktown v Marconi at Gabbie Stadium 12.15pm.

Syd Oly	14	10	3	1	35	9	23
Marconi	16	9	5	2	31	10	23
Syd Croatia	17	9	1	7	35	25	19
Wollongong	13	6	3	4	21	18	15
AIS	14	6	3	5	24	22	15
APIA	14	4	4	6	16	32	12
Blacktown	14	5	1	8	29	29	11
St George	13	3	3	7	11	23	8
Adamstown	15	1	1	13	9	43	2

BLACKTOWN 3 (Suman 2,Rogers) APIA 0, ADAMSTOWN 0 ST GEORGE 0.

Top Scorers

15 David Seal Croatia, 12 Stan Suman Blacktown, 10 Jason Bennett Olympic, 7 Greg Dickinson AIS, 6 Charlie Ienco Marconi.

LEGACY

We need your help... today more than ever.

Please send donations to your nearest Legacy office.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

You can receive a mail subscription copy of Australia's premier Soccer publication each week for 1989 simply by mailing the coupon and your cheque for $80 made payable to "Australian Soccer Weekly" to **P.O. Box 406, BROADWAY, NSW. 2007.**

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Find the ball! Sydney Croatia's Shane Clinch arrives to stop a cross from Rade Stefanovski of Wollongong, but the ball has already departed.

Junior Cups cancelled

THE 1989 State Cup tournaments have been cancelled due to the extraordinary weather NSW has experienced over the last couple of months.

The decision, made by the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation last Friday night, took into account the fact many grounds are in a shocking state and will need time to recover and most associations have a huge backlog of games which they will have to get through.

It should be noted this decision only affects the under 14, 16 and 18 State Cups. Both the Robertson and Amateur Cups will go ahead more or less as planned.

The Robertson Cup will kick off on June 18 and the Amateur Cup will have its second round on the same date.

All UMBRO youth league and MITRE metropolitan championship teams should note they will play at least two games each over the long weekend.

UMBRO players can expect to play on Saturday and Monday while MITRE reps will play on Sunday and Monday.

Again, due to the inclement weather, St George association has been forced to delay the start of the Sid Tanner Cup, which was to be played over the long weekend.

The under 11 competition will be played on a yet to be finalised date in October.

There were more games cancelled than played over the weekend in both UMBRO youth league and MITRE metropolitan representatives.

Five division one and only two division two youth league games were played on Saturday, while only one catch up match from each division was played on Sunday.

The MITRE metro's have slipped further behind with only 50 per cent of the games being played.

Fine weather is predicted over the next few weeks. However, it will take at least two weeks before the grounds have had sufficient time to dry out.

Almost every ground is looking the worse for wear and this is making it difficult for teams wanting to knock the ball around.

Generally, the teams doing best are those which play a long ball game with speedy men up front.

So far this year there have been some absolutely amazing results and many teams are picking up points they would not normally have been expected to get.

Marconi's Ian Gray controls the football.

COMING WEST END NSL FIXTURES

ROUND 20

SATURDAY JUNE 3			
Sunshine GC	v	Melbourne Croatia	Somers St
SUNDAY JUNE 4			
Preston Mak	v	Melbourne JUST	Olympic Park
Sydney Croatia	v	Heidelberg	Croatian Sports Centre
St George	v	Apia L'hardt	St George Stadium
Blacktown City	v	Marconi	Gabbie Stadium
South Melbourne	v	Sydney Olympic	Middle Park
Adelaide City	v	Wollongong City	Olympic Sports Field

More rain chaos

BY PAUL GOODWIN

ANOTHER disrupted round of soccer, thanks to heavy overnight rain on Friday, presented Granville-Chile with the opportunity to extend their lead at the top of the table to four points.

Nearest rivals, Sydney Macedonia had their game against the well-fancied North Shore United washed out and could do nothing but watch as Granville disposed of the luckless Campbelltown 4-1 at Bensley Road.

The visitors opened purposefully and went to the lead in the 11th minute when Cristian Castro laid the ball at the feet of Andy Ferris, after a strong move on the left flank, leaving Ferris to shake off two defenders and push the ball into the path of Jose Coelho who finished the move with a crisp shot from close range.

A mishap four minutes later by Vikings 'keeper Antoine Avellino led to Ferris making at 2-0, with a goal-kick landing right at the feet of the tall blond striker.

Ferris, with Duarte in support, took the ball through himself to score easily.

Campbelltown could have pulled one back on the stroke of half time when Mark Stevens headed powerfully over the bar, from a Jenner cross, but another mistake almost caused a third Granville goal when a Mark Stanton backpass eluded Avellino and hit the post, with Duarte's quick return shot being well smothered by the young goalie.

Peter Treacey went wide with a free kick attempt in the 51st minute, but three minutes later Dennis Duarte claimed his first and Chile's third when he picked up a Steve Blackburn clearance from an Andy Ferris shot, to plant the ball in the Vikings net.

Substitute Arbelo lobbed the ball over a bemused Campbelltown defence in the 69th minute to give Duarte his second goal, before Michael O'Neill put home a good cross from the right by Danny Verden, who, in turn, received a good ball from Mark Stevens.

Sadly, Verden received his marching orders soon after this 72nd minute effort, cutting the home side down to nine men, having lost Ian Wotherspoon midway through the first half in similar fashion.

Granville-Chile now face Dulwich Hill on Sunday and a bumper crowd should pack into Garside Park to see the Latin "derby", which went the way of Chile by 2-0 at the first meeting.

Campbelltown are due to play at Potts Park against Blacktown, a side which is staking a claim for the title itself and it won't be easy for the Vikings against the Reds who have been unable to show their wares to home supporters since March 19.

Bankstown found Bathurst a hard nut to crack at Carrington Park on Saturday, but after going behind early in the second half, Town finished the stronger, equalising with plenty of time on the clock.

A Dave White header from a Danny Volarich cross wiped out Alan Lippiatt's strike after he received a square ball from Ross.

Fairy Meadow have lost ground on the leaders despite their sound 7-0 win at Waverley recently and will be looking for another solid success against Bathurst at Brandon Park to consolidate their own challenge.

Gladesville-Hornsby had to call off last Sunday's game with Meadow and have now played just six of their scheduled 14 games.

They take on Orange-Waratah at Campbell Park on Sunday and should collect both points, as Orange appear to be out of form at present.

Orange toiled away against Waverley last Saturday, relying on Stuart Cousins to spark them, but apart from a Cousins long-range effort in the 15th minute which cleared the crossbar and a disallowed goal from Robbie Brown before the break, there was little spark in front of goal.

Waverley were boosted by the signing of Colin McAusland and the return after a long lay-off by Frank Leyden, both men reappearing in the guise of substitutes in the latter stages of the game.

Jimmy Berry found himself with only the 'keeper to beat after a corner on the right, in the 57th minute, but struck the bar from only seven metres, as Waverley moved into top gear towards the end.

It was Barry Walker who featured most prominently, heading wide in the 10th minute and having a clever lob tipped over by Glen Hooper in the 'Tahs goal in the 59th.

N.S.W. 2ND AND 3RD DIVISIONS

Walker had the last word, however, when he headed home a cross from the right by McGrouther in the last minute to leave Orange again pointless from their visits to the metropolis.

RESULTS: BATHURST '75 1 (Lippiatt) BANKSTOWN 1 (White); CAMPBELLTOWN VIKINGS 1 (O'Neill) GRANVILLE-CHILE 4 (Coelho, Ferris, Duarte 2); WAVERLEY 1 (Walker) ORANGE-WARATAH 0. Other games postponed.

LEADING SCORERS:13 Dennis Duarte, 9 David White, 8 Sergio Barros, 7 Fabian Kadric, 6 Harry Sattin, 5 Neal Hunter, 4 Andy Ferris, Chris Card, Glenn Jeffery, Robbie McKegan, Mark Butler, Scott Gilbert, Zaljko Beres, Paul Waine.

STATE LEAGUE 2 GR 1

G'ville Chile	12	7	3	2	21	13	17
Syd. Macedonia	7	6	1	0	17	3	13
Fairy Meadow	8	4	2	2	20	7	10
North Shore Utd	8	4	2	2	17	10	10
SSC Yugal	8	4	2	2	12	8	10
Dulwich Hill	7	4	1	2	17	13	9
Bankstown	8	4	1	3	16	12	9
Orange Waratah	12	3	3	6	15	21	9
Gladesville H'by	6	2	4	0	8	6	8
Manly Warringah	7	3	1	3	12	15	7
Waverley SC	10	2	2	6	8	27	6
Mount Druitt	7	1	2	4	8	13	4
Campbelltown Vik'	9	1	2	6	7	14	4
Bathurst '75	11	1	2	8	10	26	4

STATE LEAGUE 2 GR 2

G'ville Chile	12	6	4	2	22	12	16
Campbelltown Vik'	9	6	2	1	23	11	14
Waverley SC	10	6	1	3	32	20	13
Bathurst '75	11	4	3	4	29	31	11
Orange Waratah	12	4	3	5	17	26	11
Manly Warringah	6	4	1	1	12	5	9
Bankstown	8	4	0	4	32	12	8
Dulwich Hill	7	4	0	3	16	14	8
Sydney Macedonia	7	3	1	3	13	15	7
Mount Druitt	7	2	2	3	8	8	6
Gladesville H'by	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
North Shore Utd	8	2	2	4	9	13	6
SSC Yugal	8	1	1	6	7	19	3
Fairy Meadow	7	0	0	7	4	38	0

STATE LEAGUE 3 GR 1

Rosebery Portugal	7	6	1	0	17	7	13
Southern Dists	8	6	0	2	18	6	12
Central Coast	5	3	1	1	6	3	7
Port Hacking	5	3	0	2	18	6	6
Concordia	5	2	2	1	10	9	6
Canterbury & Dist	10	2	2	6	15	28	6
Uni of NSW	[illegible]	1	3	4	11	17	5
Mt Pritchard	5	2	0	3	14	15	4
Hills United	4	1	1	2	10	6	3
Moorebank L'pool	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Rooty Hill/West Utd	4	1	1	2	7	8	3
Blacktown United	4	0	0	4	5	26	0

FED. LEAGUE 3 GR 2

Rosebery Portugal	7	4	3	0	21	4	11
Southern Dists	8	4	1	3	12	16	9
Central Coast	5	4	0	1	19	9	8
Uni of NSW	7	3	2	2	10	10	8
Mt Pritchard	5	3	0	2	20	8	6
Canterbury & Dist	9	1	4	4	17	15	6
Port Hacking	5	3	0	2	7	15	6
Hills United	4	2	1	1	8	3	5
Rooty Hill/West Utd	4	1	1	2	8	10	3
Concordia	3	1	0	2	5	8	2
Moorebank L'pool	3	0	0	3	1	10	0
Blacktown Utd	4	0	0	4	2	22	0

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish stories and pictures from main regional centres throughout Austrlaia.

Publicity officers, here is the chance to make your district wider known in the game.

Address material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation

REGISTERED OFFICE: 482 Meurants Lane, Parklea 2148
POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 175, Toongabbie 2146
TELEPHONE: 629 2833, Fax 629 1051

SUTHERLAND U/12: Terry Stuart (asst. coach), Kurt Thessman, Blake Reily, Nick Theodorakopoulos, Michael Black, Stephen Peters, Christopher Bourquin, Brett Stenson, Dominic Johnson, Michael Stuart, Andrew McLeod, Scott Brown, Matthew Tomlim. Absent: Drouin Shimbel, Simon Hird. Coach: Craig Hill. Manager: Bob Hill.

Promotion story pays a handsome dividend

WHEN the following article appeared in the Commonwealth Banks's Club Australia "Newsbreaks" magazine the NSW Amateur Federation office received many phone calls from interested readers.

The article's inclusion in the magazine was organised by the general manager of the NSWASF, Cec Bucello, in order to continue the promotion of the sport.

The magazine itself is read by some 350,000 Australians aged between 12 and 17.

Soccer, the world's number one sport, has also become Australia's largest participant sport with over 500,000 players at all levels of junior, youth, schools, university, senior and professional — both male and female.

Current trends indicate that the game will continue to grow, particularly in view of the recent achievement of the national team in giving the game a higher profile.

This growth is being further accelerated by the continuing development of women's and junior girls' soccer as well as indoor soccer, both of which are introducing thousands of new players and followers to the sport.

Soccer is great fun — whether it is played by highly paid professionals in front of a large crowd, or two young children kicking a ball about in the back yard. Interest is worldwide.

The whole of Australia was excited by the appearance of the national team in the World Cup finals and the Olympics.

Perhaps what makes soccer a great game is the fact that it can be enjoyed at all levels, and at all ages — by both men and women.

The rules of the game are not too difficult — they take a little time to learn.

The skills of the game may take a lifetime to master!

The Commonwealth Bank is also highly involved with Soccer. It is the major sponsor of the Commonwealth Bank Cup — a New South Wales school competition, and has recently become a sponsor of the Commonwealth Bank Centenary Cup held in New South Wales at the beginning of each year for the 12-year-old age group.

Also the Commonwealth Bank New South Wales Amateur Soccer Federation Champion of Champions competition is held at the end of each year for all age groups, the finals of which draw 12,000 spectators.

Anyone wishing to participate in a weekend soccer competition in New South Wales should contact the New South Wales Amateur Soccer Federation in the first instance on (02) 629 2833.

People in other States should contact their respective State bodies as listed in their telephone directory.

Country reps show wares

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Country Representative teams will be in camp at Valentine Park, Parklea from June 25-30.

Five teams will be spending the week training and will have an excellent opportunity to further their football careers.

The teams from under 12 to 16 will be playing a number of matches throughout the week against as number of Youth League clubs, during which time they will be watched carefully by their respective State coaches.

Players who have been seleced in the respective counry representative teams are as follows:

Under 12s: C. Taylor, C. Periera, J. Mather, T. Campbell, S. Doney, M. Helinski, A. Fittock, B. Keevers, A. Alvos, P. Panebianco, S. Serafin, N. Crampton, J. Huggett, B. Carey, D. Barrett.

Under 13s: D. Spowart, T. Bellamy, J. Bickmore, S. Smith, B. Livermore, D. Donadel, G. Godbee, S. Pepperall, C. Bagnall, C. Phelps, C. Modena, M. Fraser, B. Brodie, R. Anelzark, M. Smith.

Under 14s: P. Evans, C. Denney, L. Thomas, J. Bennett, T. Brown, S. Tancred, D. Gordon, M. Whitelaw, D. Cronshaw, M. Passlow, J. Ratliff, R. Leonard, M. Studdart, S. Hundy, R. Ford.

Under 15s: B. Davis, D. Wilson, J. Hiles, T. Purnell, A. Mark, D. Beardon, R. Rowe, G. Dorrington, S. Bendiech, S. West, M. Dagg, M. Hartley, S. Henry, D. McNight.

Under 16s: C. Eggersdorf, P. Fisher, J. Hay, S. Brown, A. Grant, M. Jaggers, I. Pattingale, J. Oates, J. Strong, G. Findlay, S. Barter, D. Brown, M. Betts, M. Jenkins.

Level I manual available

THE Aussie Sports Soccer Coaching Manual has been reprinted by the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Ltd in conjunction with the Australian Council of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the Australian Women's Soccer Association.

It is in demand from parents, coaches and teachers looking for a coaching manual to supplement their Level I course or to have as a guide to use without having done the course.

The Aussie Sports Soccer Coaching Programme (ASCP) is a national initiative of ACHPER, Sports Commission and the Australian Soccer Federation, with the aim of having all coaches qualified at least to level 1.

The programme is designed for:

- parents who coach school and community soccer teams
- teachers who coach school soccer teams
- teachers of physical education

The programme takes into account the need to

- understand the processes involved in effective soccer coaching
- improve the social, physical, emotional and intellectual abilities of the children
- treat each child individually at their level of development
- enjoy their soccer coaching experiences
- gain practical ideas for organising children's soccer skill practices and competitions
- gain confidence and learn different ways of teaching soccer skills

Children will have an opportunity to develop good judgment and co-ordination, confidence in ball control, understanding of team-work and fair-play, knowledge of soccer rules and strategies and safety.

PROMOTION

Schools and clubs are urged to send all their coaches of children's teams to a course.

There is no course fee for NSW Amateur Soccer Federation clubs but it is recommended that this manual be purchased as a permanent reference.

Contents include: What Research Tells the Coach, Children in Sport Questionnaire, The Role of the Coach, Organisation of the Coaching Programme, Conducting the Coaching Session, Time allocation for Coaching Sessions, Exercising Safely, Mini-Soccer, Junior Soccer, Equipment, First Aid Kit and Soccer Lessons.

The manner in which the manual can be obtained is set out in the coupon herewith.

Please forward me ..... copies of LEVEL 1 SOCCER COACHING MANUAL at $15 per copy (including postage and packing). I have enclosed a cheque/money order to the value of $.....

Send to: NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, PO Box 175, TOONGABBIE NSW 2146

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

..... **POSTCODE:**.....

FIRST UP

YOUNG Adam Lipscomb made an incredible start to his soccer career.

In his very first game, playing for the Greystanes Soccer Club's under six Blue team in the NSW Churches Football Association, he scored 13 goals!

Greystanes won 14-0 and coach John Oliver was delighted.

Congratulations, Adam!

FAX CONTACT

The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation now has its own FAX line installed and they are contactable by that method 24 hours a day.

The FAX number is (02) 629 1051. Please take it down for your future reference.

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

			U13	U14	U15	U17
SATURDAY MAY 20 DIVISION 1						
Illawarra	v	Sutherland	2-4	1-1	0-2	0-5
SATURDAY MAY 27 DIVISION 1						
Bankstown	v	Sydney Olympic	1-2	1-2	1-3	w/o
St George	v	Canterbury	3-1	4-0	0-1	3-0
Nepean	v	Marconi	1-2	3-4	1-4	1-4
Illawarra	v	Sydney Croatia	5-0	3-0	0-2	w/o
Canterbury	v	Melita	0-2	0-0	0-2	1-6
Melita	v	Sydney Olympic	1-1	1-3	1-1	0-1
DIVISION 2 SATURDAY MAY 20						
Blacktown	v	Macarthur	1-2	0-3	1-4	1-0
SUNDAY MAY 21						
Macarthur	v	Gladesville	3-1	2-0	0-0	2-2
Southern Dists	v	SSC Yugal	5-0	3-1	1-1	2-1
Avala	v	Southern Dists	2-2	2-1	1-3	1-1
MITRE METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIP						
SUNDAY 21TH MAY						
St George	v	Sutherland	0-0	1-1		
Manly	v	Nepean	1-0	2-2		
Illawarra	v	Macarthur	0-2	0-3		
Sthn Branch	v	Central Coast	1-2	2-0		

Outback soccer

NSWASF regional coach, David Ahern, recently took part in an interesting exercise, coaching young children in outback NSW.

Ahern spent a week travelling to various centres throughout the state with the objective of taking coaching to disadvantaged areas.

The trip was organised by the Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing and funded by them as well as the NSW Soccer Federation and the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

Ahern set off from Sydney on May 5, flying to Bourke via Dubbo and was accompanied on the trip by Paul Bimson from Little Athletics and Mark Holland of Golf.

On Saturday May 6 he held coaching sessions at the Bourke Showground with children aged from 6 to 12 years, as well as discussing having fun with the football with parents and guardians in the evening.

After heavy rain the previous night they were forced to train on any dry area available on Sunday, although a number of parents had to head for home due to minor flooding.

On Monday they set out for Brewarrina by car with the Department of Sport and Recreation officer, Lee Parsons.

In Brewarrina they coached approximately 120 children from 7-16. Ahern was particularly impressed with the players' skill levels.

Tuesday was spent in similar fashion and next day they departed for Ivanhoe, being forced to take a detour through Wilcannia due to heavy overnight rain which had cut a number of roads in the area.

The coaching sessions held at Ivanhoe were well received. There are no organised Soccer games in Ivanhoe, but a lot of children showed remarkable co-ordination and a willingness to participate.

The coaching sessions continued on Friday at Ivanhoe with youngsters from Little Abbotsford, a tiny township approximately ten kilometres out of Ivanhoe.

Ahern considers the trip was particularly worthwhile and reports that the teachers and children in all the areas visited welcomed him with tremendous enthusiasm and a willingness to learn and help.

UK Scene

CELTIC centre-half Mick McCarthy will sign for newly-promoted French First Division club Olympique Lyon.

McCarthy admits: "I'm very happy at Celtic and would have stayed if they'd wanted me to.

"But I am now 30 years old, so I suppose the deal does represent good business for the club."

McCarthy joined Celtic from Manchester City for $1 million two years ago and Olympique are expected to pay a similar fee for the Republic of Ireland international.

★★★

QPR boss Trevor Francis has asked his scouts to keep a close eye on Glentoran goalkeeper Alan Patterson.

The Northern Irish schoolboy international has made rapid progress in the past year and Francis is keen to be first in the queue for the talented teenager.

★★★

FORMER Bolton and Mansfield boss Ian Greaves is tipped to take over the Blackpool job next season.

The job has been vacant since Sam Ellis left in March and Greaves is looking to return to management.

MOTHERWELL's former Scottish youth international duo Cameron Duncan and John Philliben are both looking to leave the club. Goalkeeper Duncan and defender Philliben have both been told by manager Tommy McLean that they cannot be guaranteed first team football.

★★★

WIMBLEDON midfield man Lawrie Sanchez is praying that he still has an international future with Northern Ireland.

"I was tried out in Norman Whiteside's position during his absence and I didn't play particularly well," admits Lawrie.

"But I still reckon Billy Bingham could find room for both of us in his midfield."

★★★

CHELSEA boss Bobby Campbell has been given the go-ahead to sign two "top quality" midfield players in preparation for his team's return to the First Division next season.

One name being mentioned is West Ham's Paul Ince, and don't be surprised if Campbell goes to Holland again in his search.

Ian Rush spins around and spears the ball past Neville Southall to score Liverpool's second goal of the FA Cup final. The goal in extra-time put Liverpool ahead 2-1 before it finally beat Everton 3-2

Manchester United is not for sale

MANCHESTER United chairman and chief executive Martin Edwards denied rumours that he is set to sell out and quit the club.

Edwards, the major shareholder with a 60 percent interest, was said to be considering a $26 million bid for the club which is valued at around $40 million.

Al Midani, a 35-year-old Saudi director and son of one of the world's richest men, was named as the man who would take over.

But Midani denied any knowledge of the move, and Edwards said: "I have no interest in trying to sell the club. It is pure speculation."

DZIEKANOWSKI

The Edwards family have held a controlling interest in Britain's glamourous club for more than a quarter of a century.

The ailing United are chasing Polish stars Ryszard Tarasiewicz and Dariusz Dziekanowski after they received permission to move abroad recently by their national federation.

They watched the pair, whose deals will be handled by the English Football Association's agents and a London firm of solicitors, against Sweden in the Group 3 World Cup qualifier in Stockholm.

United are sizing up Irish talent as well.

Manager Alex Ferguson watched Derry striker Liam Coyle and Cork defender Brian Carey, an Everton target, in the Irish Cup final.

Meanwhile, Liverpool have given free transfers to Eire left-back Jim Beglin and mdifielder Kevin Macdonald.

Manchester City are favourites to land Beglin, having tried for him before the transfer deadline, while Leicester want Macdonald back.

City are also trailing Bournemouth midfielder Ian Bishop, Tottenham striker Paul Stewart and Aston Villa defender Martin Keown as they seek to strengthen their squad for their return to the First Division.

Wembley fans get all clear

ENGLISH soccer authorities said fans who invaded the pitch during the FA Cup final had acted "just within the bounds of acceptability."

Football Association spokesman Glen Kirton said invading fans had not intended any malice towards the players.

"Everything was good natured," he said.

"I don't think anybody intended any malice. The behaviour was just within the bounds of acceptability."

KENNY DALGLISH

Victorious Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish said: "It was all good natured. I don't think there were any problems.

"If it had been a rugby match it wouldn't even have merited a mention."

European press comments, however, were not so generous.

Most condemned the lack of security at Wembley and several questioned UEFA's decision to readmit English clubs back into European club competitions in 1990/91.

★★★

The Football Association has promised action against English supporters whose behaviour marred a 2-0 victory by England B over Iceland in Reykjavik.

About 20 fans chanted obscenities and insulted England's black defender Paul Parker.

The incorrigible Brits also misbehaved three days later, in Stavenger, when their B side defeated its Norwegian counterpart 1-0.

A cruel tax

WHAT price the quality of mercy in Margaret Thatcher's Britain these days?

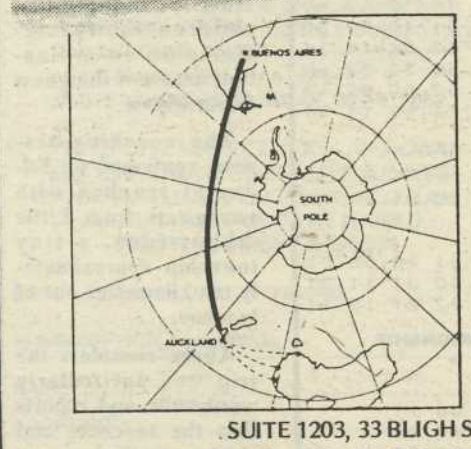
Would you believe that the British Inland Revenue (Taxation Department) is to skim off 20 percent from all donations raised for the victims of the Hillsborough disaster?

The fund now stands at almost $10 million.

The British tax authorities have told Celtic they were deducting their share from the benefit match against Liverpool which brought in $800,000 and they are also after a cut from of the $450,000 the Scottish FA gave the fund from the receipts of the World Cup qualifier against Cyprus.

How greedy can you get?

ARGENTINAS



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DIEGO MARADONA: the "hand of God" strikes again!

Maradona's helping hand

ALTHOUGH Greek referee Gerassimos Germanakos — who incidentally officiated when the Young Socceroos lost their World Cup qualifier in Aleppo against Syria in January — claimed Maradona did not handle the ball before winning a penalty in the UEFA Cup final first leg against VfV Stuttgart in Naples, the Argentine superstar has all but admitted he did touch the ball.

Maradona said he had been looking for a penalty to give Napoli a much-needed equaliser.

Television slow-motion replays showed Maradona putting a hand out to the ball and sending it on to the body of Gunther Schaefer who touched the ball with his hand while closely marking Maradona in the area.

The referee immediately whistled the penalty which Maradona converted, and the rest, as they say, is history.

In a half-page article headed "When winning is tough, Maradona gives a helping hand", the leading Italian sports daily GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT the Friday after the first leg listed five other similar occasions, including the World Cup quarter-final against England in Mexico in 1986.

"It's not the first time, and it probably won't be the last, that Maradona resorts to certain refinements," the paper wrote.

IT'S FASH THE CASH!

JOHN Fashanu is demanding $4,000 a week to play for a bunch of Swedish part-timers this summer.

Norrstrand, of Karlstrad, a Swedish Third Division side, have approached the Wimbledon striker, and they say he would be delighted to play for them — if the money was right.

Now Norrstrand are desperately looking for sponsors in Sweden to finance the deal.

They hope to sign Fash the Cash for a six-week period to help boost their promotion hopes.

SOUTH AMERICA

BY MARIO ETCHART

Olimpia leading in Libertadores

IN the first leg of the Libertadores Cup final, Olimpia Asuncion of Paraguay, playing on its home ground of Defensores del Chaco Stadium, defeated Atletico Nacional of Colombia, 2-0.

The visitors dominated for most of the first 45 minutes with an excellent display from midfielder Leonel Alvarez.

But it was Olimpia who went ahead after 36 minutes when striker Rafael Bobadilla opened the score with a short drive from inside the box.

In the second half, Olimpia took control of the game and went further ahead.

Paraguayan midfielder Vidal Sanabria lobbed the ball over Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita to score in the 60th minute.

One minute before the end, after a brilliant move by Vicente Amarilla, Gustavo Nafa missed a clear chance for the home team.

Today (Wednesday), in Medellin, Olimpia will need only a draw to win the Libertadores Cup for the second time.

Olimpia took the tournament in 1979.

Colombian clubs have never won the competition although America reached the final three times.

★★★

In a friendly international played at Quito, Ecuador, the locals and Uruguay drew 1-1 in front of a crowd of 20,000.

The Ecuadorans, under the guidance of brilliant midfielder and man-of-the-match, Alex Aguinaga, dominated but couldn't translate their superiority into goals.

Only once, 13 minutes into the second half, did they break the deadlock to score through striker Raul Aviles.

The Uruguayans equalised one minute before the end when defender Herrera netted with a well — executed free-kick.

Uruguay took the field minus seven of their overseas-based players.

★★★

The Chilean national team drew 0-0 with England in the Stanley Rous Cup a fortnight ago.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

SOCCER

WORLD CUP — Asia Group 4: Malaysia-Nepal 2-0; South Korea- Nepal 9-0; South Korea-Singapore 3-0; Malaysia-Singapore 1-0. Asia Group 6: Indonesia-North Korea 0-0.

FRIENDLIES: Chile-Northern Ireland 1-0; England-Scotland 2-0; Belgium-Yugoslavia 1-0.

★★★

Mick Harford (Luton Town) at left can't reach West Ham's Alvin Martin. The Hammers won the match.

World Wide

- **USSR national team coach Valeri Lobanovsky has revealed that he still has no official contract with the national federation. And what's more, the ban in 1983 which forbade him to coach national teams, had never been lifted!**

USSR national team coach Valeri Lobanovsky: still waiting for a signed contract.

- **LKS Lodz midfielder Jacek Zlobek has been arrested by Polish police on a charge of involuntary homicide. He is accused of running over a pedestrian.**
- A poll in the prestigious Argentine weekly GRAFICO reveals that the Argentine public does not enjoy the newly instituted system of penalty kicks to eliminate drawn games. A whopping 71% of readers voted against the measure, which is to be scrapped next season.
- **A Third Division club, Maritz Iztok Radnevo, has reached the final of the Bulgarian Cup. On June 7, they will meet the country's leading side, Sredets Sofia, in the final.**
- River Plate Buenos Aires' attacking midfielder, Gerardo Reinoso, has been transferred for $350,000 to Chile's Universidad Catolica.
- Valladolid coach Vicente Cantalore will move to fellow-Spanish First Division side Oviedo next season.
- **Argentine First Division club Racing Avellaneda is in big trouble. Besides being eliminated from the Copa Libertadores, they have lost their coach, Coco Basile, and their president, Luis De Stefano has been suspended by the FA for allegedly insulting officials.**
- Kevin Ratcliffe had the misfortunte of scoring his first-ever own goal, at any level, in Wales' recent 2-0 defeat against Sweden.
- **Italy's next friendly international will be on October 14, against Bulgaria. Other opponents before the World Cup finals will be: Brazil (November 11), Algeria (November 15), England (December 21), Argentina (February 21), Holland (March 31), Switzerland (April 4) and the USA (April 19).**
- West Germany's recent 1-1 World Cup qualifying draw with Holland in Rotterdam was not all that surprising in the light of past results between the two countries. Would you believe that Holland have not beaten their arch-rivals at home since a 2-1 victory on March 29, 1925?
- **Ajax Amsterdam's Swedish international striker, Stefan Pettersson, seen in Australia last year with Goteborg, has undergone knee surgery and will miss all of Sweden's World Cup qualifying matches in the northern spring and summer.**
- Czecholovakian international Lubos Kubik has finally received official permission to play abroad after his ill-fated eight months on the sidelines in England. Kubik has signed for Italy's Fiorentina.
- **Franz "Bimbo" Binder, one of Austria's greatest pre-war players, died in Vienna at the age of 77. Binder played 765 matches for Rapid and scored 1006 goals in his career. He was a regular member of the national team from 1933 to 1947.**
- Iranian soccer has well and truly ended its ayatollah-imposed isolation. The national team will play four games in the USSR later this month as a build-up for its coming World Cup qualifying play-off games where China looms as a big threat.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- Piet Kruiver, former Dutch international striker, has died at age 51. Kruiver played for PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord and had a short spell in Italy with Lanerossi Vicenza. He scored 12 goals in 22 internationals for Holland.
- **ITV are to challenge in front of the European Television Commission the claim by the BBC and BSB to hold exclusive screening rights for England's international matches abroad. ITV also defies the English FA by showing highlights of European club competitions.**
- The English FA has refused to sanction a repeat of last year's Wembley pre-season tournament involving Tottenham, Arsenal, AC Milan and Bayern Munich. No reason was given.
- **Real Madrid, eliminated by AC Milan in the semi-finals of the European Champions' Cup, cried all the way to the bank. The club announced it took in a record $4 million from gate receipts, advertising and TV rights for its first leg semi-final tie at Bernabeu Stadium.**
- Moscow Dynamo will play two games in Britain during the off-season. The Soviets meet Celtic on August 5 and Wolverhampton on the 8th.
- **Mechelen defender Geert Deferm has signed a new three-year contract with the club after refusing an offer to join Standard Liege.**
- Hans Dorfner has extended his contract with Bayern Munich. The 23-year-old midfielder was sought by several Italian clubs.
- **Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov could be headed for Spain. FC Sevilla are keen to sign the Yugoslav maestro though his contract with the Italian club runs till June 1990.**
- Florence is on the ranks to stage the 1990 European Cup-Winners' Cup final.
- **Genoa's Sampdoria only have one local-born player in their first team squad — young Marco Lanna.**
- Dynamo Kiev, one of the USSR's two professional clubs, have signed a $500,000 contract with Duarig, the French sporting goods firm. The club will exclusively use the company's soccer balls and uniforms.
- **Stal Mielec celebrated its 500th Polish First Division game by defeating Pogon Szczecin 2-0. Ruch leads the competition.**
- Derry City have won the Irish title for the first time.
- **Dutch national team coach Thijs Libregts could face the axe if Holland does not qualify automatically for the World Cup finals. After drawing 1-1 at home with West Germany, the Dutch seem likely to have to play off against a yet unidentified opponent to make it to Italy because only the team finishing first in the four-nation group will qualify automatically.**
- Lyuboslav Penev, CSKA Sofia's star striker and Bulgarian Player of the Year, broke his ankle against Dunav and is out of action for six months.
- **John Mortimore is back at Southampton where he will scout and develop youth for the English club. The former Benfica and Portsmouth supremo, who also managed Belenenses in Portugal, was at the Dell under both Ted Bates and Lawrie McMenemy. He is 54.**
- Sredets Sofia is running away with the Bulgarian title. After 22 rounds the Sofia club is nine points ahead of Vitosha.
- **Twelve fans of Portimonense were killed and 26 injured when a bus taking them to watch their team against Porto crashed off the road and overturned.**
- Bayer Leverkrusen's West German international defender, Wolfgang Rolff, changed his mind about an end-of-season move to Genoa and agreed terms with Racing Strasbourg, of France, instead. Genoa apparently could not, or would not raise the $1.5 million fee.
- **Scottish Hearts of Midlothian were fined $92,000 by the UEFA for allowing a live telecast of their UEFA Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich, against the express wishes of the West German and Scottish authorities. Hearts were also ordered not to sell TV rights for any European match in the season for which they next qualify.**
- Violence, or the threat of it, continues to keep Greek attendance figures at low levels. Only 66,260 fans watched the eight-match First Division round on April 9 — a total which would not even fill Athens' Olympic Stadium!
- **Marek Lesniak, Bayer Leverkrusen's Polish international striker, has been suspended until the end of the season for violently dissenting with a referee.**
- Tony Cascarino has renewed his contract with Milwall. The Irish striker has signed for another three years.

European Footballer of the Year Marco van Basten celebrates after scoring a goal for Holland in the Euro-88 final. He scored the equaliser for the Dutch in last month's World Cup qualifier against West Germany in Rotterdam.

Mayhem in Rotterdam

George van Zanden represented AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY at the Holland — West Germany World Cup qualifier at the Feyenoord Stadium on April 26. He recorded some colourful sidelights of the event . . .

AFTER the game I stood on the stadium stairway, watching the crowd scene below.

The Dutch and German police were trying to work out how to deal with street fighting, and how to get the crowd away from the stadium.

The Rotterdam police on horseback got caught among thousands of German fans dressed up in fancy leather gear.

The Dutch dressed in Orange, waved flags and Orange Bananas singing: TA, TA, TA, RAH, TA — TA, TA, TA, RAH TAH.

The Germans shouted — "Deutschland Uber Alles" and "Sieg Heil — Sieg Heil — Sieg Heil" . . .

Teenagers, their faces painted red, white and blue and others with large orange wigs were dancing around.

To me it looked dangerous . . . exciting . . . crazy . . .

For us Australians it is hard to understand what football means to the Germans and the Dutch.

Newspapers are full of football and TV gives you football every night.

The people talk about football all the time and that includes the women.

The Feyenoord stadium is a real soccer stadium, and the crowd is close to the field of play.

It was an amazing sight to see all those German flags and the Dutch with their orange caps.

And people cried when they sang the German national anthem and were not ashamed of their tears.

A Dutch journalist next to me had tears rolling down his cheeks when the band played "Wilhelmus", the Dutch national song.

I felt embarrassed and even more so early in the game when the two super teams played so badly.

Holland's "Orange Army" in full regalia — total and colourful support for the European champions.

Draw better than a win for Swiss!

A bizarre statement by the Swiss national team coach Daniel Jeandupeux has sparked hilarity among media writers, disbelief and a sharp rebuke among others.

The respected coach announced before a friendly match against Hungary in Budapest that he would rather see a 0-0 draw than a clear-cut victory "because it would make my players complacent and arrogant before the qualifying World Cup match against Portugal."

Well, Jeandupeux got his wish — the impotent Swiss lost 3-0 and their performance was derided in the press as "useless".

Jeandupeux has been sacked since.

Norway wins

NORWAY kept its slender World Cup hopes alive by beating Cyprus 3-1 in a Group 5 qualifier in Oslo.

Rune Bratseth, Goeran Soerloth and Kgetil Osvold scored for Norway; Christos Koliandris for Cyprus.

Group Standings: Scotland 9; Yugoslavia 6; Norway, France 4; Cyprus 1.

Arsenal take title

ARSENAL achieved mission impossible by going to Liverpool's Anfield den to win by the two goals needed to clinch the 1988/89 English title.

Arsenal's 2-0 victory last Friday evening is probably the famous London club's greatest achievement of all time, perhaps even more dazzling than the Gunners' 1971 double.

Arsenal attacked the game at feverish and relentless pace as it had to.

Alan Smith headed a goal past Bruce Grobbelaar off a free-kick in the 55th minute and Arsenal scored the stunning title winner virtually seconds before full-time when Michael Thomas broke away and chipped the ball into the Reds' net.

The Liverpool players fell to the ground on their backs and knees in utter disbelief.

With the victory, Arsenal had won their ninth league championship and its first since 1971.